Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Luhk sisters' family urges DPS to probe Mafnas. PAGE 2
Two CHC nurses quit, more verbalize intention to resign. PAGE 2

# Signature campaign to put Article 12 in ballot begins

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**Efrain F. Camacho, chairman of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, signs a petition to put the question on Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution in the Nov. 6 ballot. The signature drive began on Friday and hopes to gather some 3,000 signatures to be placed on the ballot.**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Voters can now start signing a petition to put the question on Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution in the Nov. 6 ballot.

The Citizens for Change of Article 12 launched on Friday the Article 12 signature campaign.

The title of the initiative is "To propose a constitutional amendment for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to vote to repeal Article 12."

"This petition considers that under these circumstances, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and its citizens that the question whether or not to retain or repeal Article 12 be resolved by direct action of the people by placing this issue on the ballot at the next election," a portion of the petition reads.

Efrain F. Camacho, chairman of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, said the group wants to make it very clear that the signature drive is only a petition to get Article 12 in the November ballot.

"So we want everybody to sign whether you are for Article 12 or against Article 12…By signing the petition, you are not voting 'yes' or 'no'. You are only voting to have it in the ballot," Camacho

See SIGNATURE on Page 4

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**POLL RESULTS**

**Do you support putting Article 12 on the ballot this year?**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 96 |
| No | 57 |
| Undecided | 3 |
| No opinion | 7 |

*Sunday, April 01, 2012*

## INSIDE

**NATION**

The Mega Millions winners–at least three of them–stayed out of sight. The losers, who could number 100 million, had plenty to say Saturday about losing out on the world's largest-ever lottery jackpot and their dashed dreams of colossal wealth.

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**ASIA**

Myanmar held a landmark election Sunday that was expected to send democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi into parliament for her first public office since launching her decades-long struggle against the military-dominated government.

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**FOCUS**

Thirty years after Argentina and Britain spilled blood over these remote islands in the South Atlantic, the scars of war are still being scratched raw.

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# Fitial asks US Defense for 'renegotiation' of Tinian land lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to initiate "direct discussions" on the future uses of U.S. military land on Tinian and "renegotiation" of the existing lease agreement between the CNMI and U.S. Department of Defense because none of the promised developments on the island has materialized for 35 years.

Panetta

"Sadly, not a single element of the United States Department of Defense plan was ever implemented on the island and all of the United States land has been sitting idle for 35 years which has caused direct and significant harm to the community in four areas," Fitial told Panetta.

The removal of land from private use has inhibited economic development, Fitial said.

The other are: limitation of economic development has undermined the ability of Tinian's economy to be self-sustaining; uncertainty over possible military use has inhibited development of private land; and abandonment of the military infrastructure has caused a health and safety concern.

Fitial wrote the letter to Panetta on Feb. 27, but such letter was discussed

See DEFENSE on Page 4

# Fitial raises own office, lawmakers' budgets

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial raised his office's budget by 32 percent and slightly gave more to individual lawmakers' discretionary funding and their leadership accounts, but gave less to other agencies such as the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Fitial

Under Fitial's $102-million fiscal year 2013 budget that he submitted to the Legislature on Friday, his office's budget will be $954,375, up from $720,779.

The governor also increased by 7 percent the budget of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' office, from $662,287 to $706,793.

The governor's proposal gives $32.4 million to the Executive Branch, an increase of $4.1 million from the current year's $28.3 million.

Each of the 29 lawmakers will have $78,780 in discretionary funds, up by $780 compared to what's given in the FY 2012 budget law.

The House and Senate leadership accounts also increased slightly to $139,380 compared to $138,000 in the current fiscal year.

The Legislative Bureau's budget was cut from $1.44 million to only $1.01 million. The CNMI Youth Congress also got a decrease from $41,167 to $33,223.

Overall, the governor cut the Legislature's budget to $5.1 million, from $5.4 million.

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# Local

## Luhk sisters' family urges DPS to probe Mafnas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The family of the missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk is urging the Department of Public Safety to investigate whether Ramon C. Mafnas as DPS commissioner also intervened in the investigation of the case.

Elbert Quitugua, grandfather of the Luhk sisters, told *Saipan Tribune* that the family is now puzzled and worried if there was also a discrepancy as a result of Mafnas' micromanagement of the case.

"The family members are wondering if Mafnas did question personally or his detectives took a statement from the person of interest," Quitugua said.

He said the police official in charge of the Criminal Investigation Bureau at the time should disclose if Mafnas also micromanaged the case or directly intervened.

**» Wants to know whether on leave DPS chief also jeopardized case**

Quitugua said when the sisters were reported missing, Mafnas at the time was just confirmed as commissioner.

"So nobody wanted to touch him (Mafnas). So everybody was scared," Quitugua said.

The grandfather said when KSPN2 interviewed Mafnas and asked if the person of interest is a relative of the Luhk sisters, the commissioner replied "no."

"That really hurts me. Is he covering up anything?" said Quitugua, who also disclosed that the person of interest is even "very related" to Mafnas.

Quitugua appeared to investigators to dig deeper if Mafnas tampered with a witness or the person of interest.

He said the people are so happy that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial put Mafnas on administrative leave.

"They are more happy if Fitial replaces him. This is the sentiment going around in the community. The public are crying out there to replace him, to please change the commissioner. To quote his own people, he is arrogant, a bully and all of that," Quitugua said.

Then 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina were reportedly last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo on May 25, 2011.

Over 140 personnel at DPS Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, signed a petition that seeks for the ouster of Mafnas as commissioner.

The reasons cited by the petitioners are Mafnas' authoritarian leadership, confrontational approach, micro-management and lack of faith and trust in the staff of the DPS.

Capt. Lawrence Camacho, then chief of DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, wrote a letter to chief prosecutor Peter Prestley about Mafnas' questionable actions in the investigation into the murder of bartender Emelita Romero.

In that letter, Camacho alleged that Mafnas interfered with the investigation, shocking and puzzling his own detectives.

Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana C. Leon Guerrero and six other BMV staff have filed a grievance before the Office of Personnel Management against Mafnas for harassment, intimidation, and creating a hostile working environment.

The BMV employees asked OPM for immediate response by initiating an investigation and hearing on their complaint.

In response to the issues, Mafnas said he welcomed an independent investigation by federal and CNMI authorities. He said the allegations are the product of individuals with ulterior motives to fulfill their selfish agenda.

Mafnas blamed three to four "sore" senior officers at DPS of being behind these allegations. He did not name these senior officers.

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## Two CHC nurses quit, more verbalize intention to resign

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The number of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center may decline in the coming months because of anticipated resignations due to among other things, uncertainty in their retirement contributions.

Just last Friday, nursing director Leticia Reyes confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that two nurses tendered their resignations and are planning to relocate to the U.S. mainland.

These two nurses are from the medical/surgical department and from the emergency room of the Commonwealth Health Center.

CHC currently has 167 nurses made up of registered nurses, nurse practitioners, licensed practical nurses, certified nurse midwives, and nursing assistants.

Due to its limited finances, the healthcare corporation has been forced to maintain this low number of FTEs.

To keep the 167 FTEs, *Saipan Tribune* learned that two in-house nursing staffers, who are qualified for the job, were laterally transferred to the hospital as replacements to the aforementioned nurses who have resigned.

A group of nurses interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* disclosed that more of their peers have already made their intention to resign in the coming months, or serve only until the end of their contract terms.

Reyes, for her part, also confirmed Friday that many nurses have already "verbalized" to their superiors about their plans to leave CHC.

However, she said until they file the formal document, nurse staffing at the hospital is expected to remain the same.

Most employment contracts of nurses at CHC will expire in November—a year after the formal takeover of the corporation last year.

A registered nurse for several years said her planned departure was due to her intention to refund her contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund.

She believes that it is only through separation from service that she can able to get back her contribution, which she believes may only go to waste due to its near-collapsed status.

Two others say, they are planning to seek employment elsewhere due to the uncertainty of the hospital's budget which resulted in numerous delays in their paychecks.

This April marked the fifth month delay of hospital personnel's housing allowance. To save on their budget, *Saipan Tribune* learned some employees have decided to share housing arrangements with their peers.

The housing allowance was provided by the then Department of Public Health as added incentive for off-island hires. Some $600 monthly is being provided to single employees, while $800 is extended for those with families.

Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* that she's still hopeful that the corporation will fulfill its promise to provide the delayed benefit once money is made available.

Reyes, and other nurses, are counting on the remaining balance from the Marianas Public Land Trust's $3-million loan agreement of which $1 million was already been drawn down.

The nursing director reiterated that her communication with nursing staff is "constant and open."

*Saipan Tribune* learned that CHC has a ratio of one nurse for every five patients daily. In excess of the maximum five patients, additional nurses are being called to render overtime.

# Ogumoro, BMV staff fix driver's license computer problem

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro yesterday announced that those who were issued temporary driver's licenses can now pick up their new licenses.

In an announcement, Ogumoro said the new driver's license can now be picked up at the Bureau of Motor Vehicle for those issued temporary driver's licenses from December 2011 to March 2012.

"Please contact BMV at 664-9066 to check on the status of their driver's license," according to Police Officer Jason Tarkong.

Tarkong also urged those having temporary taxi driver's licenses or expired firearms identification, to contact the DPS Firearms and Records Section at 664-9072/73 on Wednesday, April 4, to follow up on their status.

"The acting commissioner has worked hard with the BMV staff in bringing the driver's license computer software back on line and appreciates the patience of all involved," Tarkong said.

Ogumoro

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial put DPS commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas on administrative leave and designated deputy commissioner Ogumoro as acting commissioner.

Last week, BMV Director Juana C. Leon Guerrero and six other BMV staff filed a grievance before the Office of Personnel Management against Mafnas for harassment, intimidation, and creating a hostile working environment.

In their complaint the BMV staff recalled, among other things, that in December 2011 when they finally started implementing the new driver's license card, Mafnas would visit their office.

The new driver's license system kept experiencing failure such as inputting driver license information and printing the new cards.

During Mafnas' at least twice a week visits to BMV, he would check on the status of the driver license system because he has been apparently receiving complaints of delays for the issuance of driver's license.

Mafnas would shout at BMV employees in front of customers as to why the system is down.

Mafnas allegedly forgot that there is only one person trained to input information in the system for printing and that there is only one terminal and one printer designed to handle the new driver license, and if the system is down there is no back-up system.

Mafnas allegedly does not want to hear the BMV's recommendation and thinks that the employees are intentionally breaking the system.

Director Leon Guerrero said Mafnas does not offer any assistance or solution to fix the malfunction and instead continued to humiliate her and her staff in front of every customer.

## Arrest sought for man who allegedly threatened to stab his mother

The U.S. Probation Office has requested the federal court to issue a warrant of arrest for a probationer who allegedly threatened to stab his mother.

Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday to order Lucas Taitano Manglona appear at a hearing to explain why he should not be remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal to begin his term of imprisonment.

Arriola said that on Feb. 23, 2012, Manglona's term of supervised release was revoked for a period of 17 months with no term of supervised release to follow.

The court revoked the supervised release after the defendant violated his conditions by using marijuana and methamphetamine or "ice."

The defendant was allowed to remain at liberty until the U.S. Marshal Service determined a date for him to self-surrender.

The probation officer said Manglona was ordered to the contact the U.S. Marshal's Office three times a week and warned that if he tests positive for drugs, he will be immediately detained.

Arriola said that, on March 19, 2012, he received a call from Manglona's mother, who disclosed that Transitional Living Center staff members stopped by her residence to administer defendant's monthly medication shot, but he refused to take the shot and instead chased them away.

Manglona also allegedly threatened to stab her and that she was in fear of her safety and left her residence to contact the police.

Arriola said on that same day, police officers arrested Manglona for disturbing the peace.

When police officers responded to the mother's residence in San Vicente that same day, she was crying and her hands were shaking from fear.

Arriola said that later that day, Manglona contacted him and apologized for his behavior.

Manglona stated he was not feeling well and that he was ready to receive his medication.

In September 2011, Manglona allegedly refused to take medication as ordered by a psychiatrist, threatened he would kill a nurse, and was also tested positive for marijuana use.

On Sept. 22, 2011, the federal court dismissed the petition to revoke the supervised release of Manglona. The court warned the defendant about future drug use and released him under the same previous conditions.

Manglona's probation had been revoked several times in the past for continued use of illegal drugs and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Manglona is one of three persons convicted of passing fake money to some stores on Saipan.

In September 2009, the federal court sentenced him to one year and one day in prison and placed him on probation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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# PNG authorities warn Bougainville over ship burnings

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (The National/PIR)—PNG Ports has threatened to close the port of Buka to all shipping vessels following the burning of three ships belonging to Star Shipping.

Militant elements sympathetic to relatives of Bougainvilleans who perished in the sinking of MV Rabaul Queen off the Finschhafen coast, Morobe, on February 2, severed the moorings of the MV Solomon Queen, the Kopra 3 and Kopra 4 on the evening of March 16 and set all three on fire. The hulled out boats now rest in a mangrove a few kilometers off Buka Island under constant armed guard by the militant elements.

Acting chief executive officer of PNG Ports Corporation, Stanley Alphonse wrote to commissioner and chief executive officer, Dr. Billy Manoka, on March 20 outlining the potential closure of the port of Buka should there be any escalation in tension associated with the burning of the ships.

"An important consideration for the continued operation of our ports are the safety and security of not only our own staff, but all our stakeholders who do business within the port, and particularly, considerations in light of the recent turn of events with the burning of the Rabaul Shipping vessels have been received with serious concerns over the continued operation of our port of Buka."

[PIR editor's note: Meanwhile, ABG PresidentJohn Momis expressed outrage at the lack of interaction and communication between families of victims and Peter Sharp. Sharp "has not displayed the characteristics of a good corporate citizen of Bougvainville or Papua New Guinea," Momis said, while also condemning the actions of militants who burned the three vessels. Elsewhere, ex-combatants and government members have called for a ban on any and all business of Sharp in both PNG and Bougainville, along with compensatory allowances for families. The group added that other shipping companies are welcome to operate in Bougainvillean waters.]

The militant elements and families of disaster victims met on March 20 and resolved to tow out the three boats and sell them off to the flourishing scrap metal business in the autonomous region and retain the proceeds as partial compensation for lives lost.

Whether this resolution is viewed as an "escalation in tension" by PNG Ports remains to be determined. But the same meeting of relatives has given assurances to all other shippers that their anger is directed at Star Shipping (Rabaul Shipping and owner Peter Sharp) and that other shipping lines can carry on business in ports of Bougainville.

## OFFICE

*From Page 1*

His budget proposal for the Judiciary remains the same at $4 million.

Rota and Northern Islands got cuts, while Tinian was almost the same but Saipan got a slight boost.

MVA's budget will be $2.125 million, slightly down from $2.175 million.

Northern Marianas College's budget is down to $5.189 million, from $5.228 million.

However, Fitial said NMC and the Public School System will receive money from transitional worker fees amounting to $1.5 million.

PSS' budget remains the same at $29.5 million under Fitial's proposal.

The Board of Education's budget stays at $175,393.

Of the $120.67 million in gross budgetary resources, $46.2 million is from business gross revenue tax; $35.3 million from income taxes; $26.7 million from other taxes; $7.42 million from fees; $2.45 million from charges for services; and $2.6 million from other revenues.

The governor's budget submission also has six austerity measures, still including 16-hour cuts, reorganization at the Department of Public Works and contribution of $2.25 million as subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

This $2.25 million has been allocated to CHC as a contribution in the form of a state match for purposes of Medicaid reimbursements. This allocation, if spent, will generate up to $5 million in Medicaid reimbursements, federal and local shares combined.

Fitial's previous budget gave CHC seed money of $5 million.

The governor gives $10 million to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Fitial said in FY 2012, the Legislature appropriated $810,000 for educational assistance. Under his new budget, he's proposing an increase of $705,000 for a total of $1.515 million.

The governor also urged lawmakers to pass revenue-generating bills, adding that the government needs almost $7 million to lift the austerity measures in 2013.

## DEFENSE

*From Page 1*

with CNMI mayors only on Thursday afternoon, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Fitial said the U.S. made promises of development to Tinian 37 years ago in exchange for land rights, "and as of yet not a single element of development has occurred."

"These unfulfilled commitments have undermined the continued existence of this small insular community, and this requires restructuring of this agreement," Fitial told Panetta.

As of yesterday, there's been no response yet from Panetta to Fitial.

Tinian played a crucial role during World War II due to its strategic location.

Fitial said recognizing the importance of Tinian, the U.S. Defense Department wanted to maintain a right to use the island for future needs after the war and entered into a 100-year lease for some 65 percent of land on Tinian.

When the lease was initially established, it presumed the establishment of a large military presence as it provided for civilian and military cooperation in medical and education facilities, harbor and airport development, construction of a fuel deport and public utilities, base-exchange and commissary privileges, and economic opportunities, Fitial said.

"For these reasons, it is time to have a realistic and good-faith discussion on the future use of the island of Tinian by the United States. History has shown that the people of the Mariana Islands have a deep respect for the United States military, and we have always accommodated requests for our assistance," Fitial told Panetta in his two-page letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Back in September, the Tinian mayor—as a member of the CNMI Military Integrated Management Committee—asked the governor to provide support for negotiations on a new land development management agreement on U.S. Department of Defense leased lands on Tinian, for maintenance of roadways and historic sites.

But Tinian is bracing for roughly 175 U.S. Marines who could start training on Tinian as early as May 8 if the ongoing development of a scope of work goes as planned.

## SIGNATURE

*From Page 1*

told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Saturday afternoon.

Camacho said they need some 3,000 signatures from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota voters to have the Article 12 question in the ballot.

The group's "ultimate plan" is to have Article 12 repealed or abolished in it entirety but to even ask that question, voters first need to decide whether they want the question in the ballot.

If this succeeds, Article 12, Sections 1 to 6 of the NMI Constitution will be repealed.

"Section 1: Alienation of Land" states that "the acquisition of permanent and long term interest in real property within the Commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent."

Former representative Diego Benavente, one of the core members of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, said yesterday that the group decided to pursue a popular initiative because all of the legislative initiatives have not been approved yet by both houses of the Legislature.

"The legislative initiatives just don't have the vote to pass at both houses," he added.

Camacho described the popular initiative as "the most difficult route."

"We asked the Legislature to do it themselves, they told us 'no.' So we're going the most difficult route to essentially get majority of the votes in the senatorial districts," he added.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period ended in 2011, just in time for this year's midterm polls to be able to ask voters.

The Covenant established the political relationship between the United States and the Northern Marianas.

"Article 12 has been extensively discussed within the (CNMI) over the past 25 years. Proposals to address the problems caused by Article 12 have been considered by the CNMI Legislature on several occasions and by the 1985 Constitutional Convention, but none of them has been enacted. These proposals have divided the community with strongly held views expressed by both supporters and opponents to repeal Article 12," the petition says.

It also says it is believed that this discussion over the years has provided sufficient opportunity for citizens of the Commonwealth to have better understanding of the problems associated with Article 12.

### If one wants to sign...

The Citizens for Change of Article 12 is encouraging voters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to sign the petition, and those who wish to do so or would like to ask questions are urged to contact any of the core members:

- Efrain F. Camacho, chairman of CCA12 and president of EFC Engineers & Architects. His office is on the second floor of the Bank of Hawaii Building, from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday; office number, 322-7814; or mobile phone number, 483-7814.
- David M. Sablan, treasurer of CCA12. His office is on the ground floor of JP Centre along Beach Road in Garapan. His office number is 235-0560 ext. 109.
- Former representative Diego Benavente. His mobile phone number is 483-5848.

The other CCA12 core members who could be contacted are: Atty. Vince Seman, vice chair; former senator Frica Pangelinan, secretary; Alex Sablan; Jay Santos; Maggie Sablan; Cathy Cepeda; John DelRosario; and Jesus Elameto.

The group will also be distributing copies of the initiative and signature sheets for those people who want to help gather signatures on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as in U.S. states where there are major concentrations of NMDs from the CNMI.

### 'Fairness'

Article 12's retention or repeal has been drawing varied views from the community.

Members of the Citizens for Change of Article 12 have been among those actively involved in healthy discussions of the matter.

Camacho said these discussions help ensure that most people would know more about Article 12 instead of only its "supposed protection of Northern Marianas descent."

"But if you look closely at the provisions, they are working against a lot of NMDs and as time progresses, there will be more dilution of blood because of mixed marriages. The 25 percent blood quantum will soon be lower than 25 percent so those (persons) will be without right to own fee simple land in the Northern Mariana Islands. So you ask yourself, is Article 12 then protecting NMDs?" Camacho said.

He pointed out that if an NMD couple or an NMD adopts a minor child from anywhere in the world without any Carolinian or Chamorro blood, that adopted child will be considered 100 percent NMD.

On the other hand, an NMD who marries a non-NMD will have a child considered only 50 percent NMD.

"That's the inequality we're talking about," Camacho said.

Camacho reiterated that Article 12 was never intended to be a permanent fixture in the Constitution.

He said there are several families on Saipan, for example, whose children now have 25 percent NMD blood.

"They (children) are now away in school…Chances are, those kids are not going to marry Chamorro or Carolinian…They're going to have families and their kids will have 12.5 percent…. They're out," he said, pointing out that it is unfair for these children with NMD blood to not have that right to own land in the CNMI.

He said "the only people that will benefit are lawyers. Because people will be taking this matter to court …to find our whether you are eligible or are you not."

Another example he cited is a family with three siblings of 50 percent NMD blood. If two of them married a non-NMD, their children will have 25 percent NMD blood. When it comes down to the grandparents passing land to their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, only those whose parent married an NMD will have the right to own land.

"Now tell me, where is the fairness in that? And people, I don't think are thinking that far in advance to realize that the best way really is just to remove Article 12 so that no matter what happens, my great great great grandchild will still be able claim land after all the blood lines stays," Camacho added.

### 'Don't compare us to Hawaiians, others'

Camacho said it is not right to compare the Chamorros and Carolinians with Hawaiians.

"Hawaiians do not have individual ownership of any land. The land in Hawaii belongs to either a queen or a king. It's a clan. So we can't compare ourselves to Hawaii. The individual Hawaiians never had land title on their own… And the reason why you have the Parker (as an example of property owners in Hawaii), these are (descendants of) missionaries that came to Hawaii, and the king and queen opened their hearts out to these people and they rewarded these people for helping them. They gave them land," he said.

He said the CNMI cannot be compared to the Philippines either where one also cannot own land unless you're a Filipino citizen.

"And yet there are investors coming to the Philippines. You know what the biggest difference is? There is no U.S. federal law there. They have completely different laws. The Philippines is big, has millions of people, has natural resources, is a very rich country. Saipan is going to be 36,000 people in the not-so-distant future. Do we have a waterfall that we can tap to generate electricity? Do we have a gold mine, do we have oil? What do we have? Nothing?" he added.

He said the CNMI cannot also be compared to Palau, which is not under federal regulations.

Camacho said the CNMI shouldn't be compared to Guam, too.

"People selling their land is a choice…. Ask those people who sold their land in Tumon (Guam, for example). I bet they're happy they sold their land, went to California and bought a house California. So you need to look at benefits," he said.

He reiterated that abolishing Article 12 is not going to force anybody to sell their property.

"You can still lease it, you can still sit on it, or if you decide to sell it, then your are selling it in an open market, you are going to be getting your fair price instead of what it is now which is depresse. It's sad that properties are now being bought at sometimes 75 or 50 cents to a dollar," he added.

Another initiative has also started, which seeks to put the question of Saipan casino in the ballot. This, after CNMI-wide and local bills seeking to legalize casino gambling on Saipan failed to pass both houses or vetoed.

# Public Health reorganizes CGC, evaluates BEH

## » CGC director position dissolved; 17 total DPH personnel reduced so far

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has reorganized the functions of Community Guidance Center to address duplication of efforts, according to Division of Public Health director Roxanne Diaz.

Diaz also said Friday that the corporation is also conducting a full assessment on the Bureau of Environmental Health.

So far, she said, a total of 17 personnel have been affected by the newly enforced emergency workforce reduction which cut down eight employees at the dental clinic and nine employees at the CGC, which have been transferred to federally funded programs.

According to the public health director, there are only less than 20 employees who are receiving salary under local funds which translates to only about 10 percent of the 115 total employees working for the division.

She said 80-90 percent of all its personnel are federally funded while salaries of a few staff are from combined local and federal monies.

Diaz disclosed that in February, the corporation dissolved the CGC director post and split the services to the public health division and the hospital.

She said that the prevention side of CGC is now under Public Health such as the Brabu project, tobacco, and others. Given to hospital administration are services for victims advocate, behavioral, and clinical services, among others.

"The CGC director post is now dissolved because functions fall under the directors of public health division and the hospital administration," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that because of the transfer of some CGC projects to the division such as Brabu project, federal grants assigned were also moved to the division.

According to Diaz, a full assessment and evaluation is now being conducted on the Bureau of Environmental Health, which has some 10 personnel.

BEH staffers, like the dental clinics and public health administrative staff, are being paid using local funds.

The evaluation aims to analyze how many employees are really needed at BEH versus the number of establishments being checked in a regular basis.

"We're currently examining the need for actual staff based on the number of establishments," she said.

The public health director also revealed that for the nine CGC personnel who were laid off effective this month, DPH is asking federal grantor agencies to allow an increase in their personnel count to save not only the personnel but the services they handled.

Diaz is optimistic citing the positive feedback from these agencies.

The division, she said, was in fact successful in transferring four locally funded personnel to federal programs: two each from Rota and Tinian.

Diaz said as long as federal monies do not supplant local funding, granting agencies assured the division that grants will continue for the existing programs.

"So far, in our communication with our grantor agencies they assured us that as long as we're not operating as a private corporation, we're in good standing [with our federal grants]," said Diaz, adding that meeting the maintenance of effort requirement on this program is important to keep the funds flowing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Capt. Scott Minium relieved Capt. John Russ during Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15's change of command ceremony at Polaris Point on board the Los Angeles-class submarine USS *Oklahoma City* (SSN 723) last March 13.

## Submarine Squadron 15 bids farewell to Russ, welcomes Minium

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Commander, Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15 held a change of command ceremony at Polaris Point on board the Los Angeles-class submarine USS *Oklahoma City* (SSN 723) last March 13.

Capt. Scott Minium relieved Capt. John Russ as commander of the squadron.

Rear Adm. James F. Caldwell, Jr., commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the guest speaker and spoke on Russ' diligence, tenacity and sense of ownership as commander of the submarine squadron.

"The success of the team depends on the leadership at the helm and the commitment of the team," Caldwell said. "To the crews of our Guam submarines: Your mission cycle is demanding, it is unlike any other submarine homeport in our nation. I think of it as a proving ground for the best and most operationally focused submarines in our force."

Following his remarks, Caldwell presented Russ with the Legion of Merit for impressive leadership of the Navy's only forward-deployed submarine squadron. Russ oversaw 36 voyage repair periods for visiting submarines and managed four forward-deployed submarines that supported 13 U.S. 7th Fleet operations. Russ also oversaw three inter-fleet transfers and laid the groundwork for three more.

During his remarks, Russ expressed great satisfaction with CSS 15's mission priorities of "War Fighting First, Operate Forward and Readiness."

"I've been blessed with the best submarine skippers and crews in the fleet; they are motivated, talented and ingenious submarine warriors," Russ said. "As our Navy's only forward-deployed submarine squadron, operating at the tip of the spear in Guam is exactly what this amazing staff and our forward-deployed submarines and tenders do best."

As Minium assumed command of CSS-15, he praised Russ for the squadron's efforts in improving submarine operations in Guam.

"There is the towering legacy of the past, a strong pattern of success and improvement that started with the standing up of Squadron 15 in 2001," Minium said. "Since then, each successive commodore and his staff have worked to improve submarine operations in Guam, and the benefits of their efforts have often reached far beyond the submarine force. Taking command of a successful organization is both humbling and daunting, and I'm sure I speak for every member of the squadron when I say the best we can do to honor your work is to add our own chapter to this fine legacy."

Russ' next assignment is chief of staff of Commander, Submarine Group 7.

CSS-15 provides maintenance, training, logistics and administration support for the submarines assigned to U.S. 7th Fleet. ***(PR)***

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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"
IMPORTANT REMINDER TO FUND BENEFIT RECIPIENTS REGARDING PAYMENTS
Annuitants are reminded that the NMI Retirement Fund will no longer issue paper checks for benefits after March 31, 2012. If you have not done so already, please complete an Application and Authorization to Commence or Cease Allotment form and submit this with a copy of:
- a preprinted bank issued deposit ticket, or
- a copy of your bank statement, or
- a copy of your savings passbook

of the designated account. If you are unable to provide any of these, we will accept an official bank form, which provides the account number and the bank routing number. The designated account must be in your name – it may be a joint account with another holder but your name must be on the account.
To receive your benefit payment on time, this form and documents must be turned in to the Fund no later than **April 2, 2012**. You will not receive a paper check or other payment after this date.

# Thousands line streets to mourn late king of Tonga

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** (AP) —Homes swathed in purple and black formed a bright bow running from the countryside to cities of Tonga as the mourning nation honored and buried their late King George Tupou V on Tuesday.

That so many took the care to adorn their homes and businesses testifies to the reverence Tongans give to the idea of the monarchy, even after Tupou ceded many of his own powers in 2008 to usher in a new era of democracy.

But his March 18 death is also raising questions about whether his younger brother, Tupou VI, will continue his legacy. The new king is seen by many here as being more conservative than his predecessor, and some fear he could stall or even reverse the political progress made in this small Pacific island nation. However, the new king does bring with him a wealth of political experience.

The centerpiece of Tuesday's funeral ceremony was a procession of 1,000 men who took turns shouldering an enormous catafalque which carried the king's coffin.

The men marched through a line of some 5,000 children in the capital Nuku'alofa, taking the coffin from the royal palace to the royal tombs. Girls from Queen Salote College sat in the burial grounds for hours, beautifully turned out in bright blue dresses and braided hair.

The dignified ceremony mixed Christian tradition with Tongan rituals. Attendees were required to wear nothing but black, and many wore traditional skirt mats, called ta'ovala. The heat got to some, including one man from the Army who passed out while standing at attention. He was quickly attended to by medical staff.

There were signs in Tuesday's ceremony that the new king is conscious about the costs of the monarchy, which has been a source of criticism in the past. The ceremony was performed a day earlier than planned to save money on accommodating guests and within a budget of about $50,000.

That was a far cry from Tupou V's lavish 2008 coronation which lasted for days and cost $2.5 million, putting a financial strain on the impoverished country of 106,000.

Outside the burial grounds, hundreds sat watching from the streets.

"It's a big loss for us," said Tevita Tonga. "He brought freedom to the people, for them to run the country."

Student Misi Vea, 20, said he thought the new king might not connect as well with a younger generation because he was much more concerned with the culture and tradition of the monarchy. Vea said younger people enjoyed the late king's irreverence in some of those matters.

Tevita Moala, a gas station attendant, said he thinks the most pressing issue for the new king is to try and help businesses thrive.

"Most of our youth don't have any jobs," Moala said. "People just move overseas, where they can get a job and get more money."

Tupou V rose to the throne in 2006 after the death of his father, who for 40 years had resisted giving up any powers of the monarchy. But Tupou V faced rioters and delayed his official coronation until 2008 while he put together the framework for sweeping political reforms, which he introduced days before his coronation.

The new king, formerly Crown Prince Tupouto'a Lavaka, had been living in Canberra, Australia, where he served as Tonga's high commissioner. Before that, he served six years as the country's appointed prime minister before resigning the post in 2006.

AP

In this July 31, 2008 file photo the Tonga's monarch, King George Tupou V, sits on his throne during the Royal Honors Investiture Ceremony in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. King George Tupou V, who championed a more democratic system of government in the Pacific island nation, died Sunday March 18, 2012, at a Hong Kong hospital.

## Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of March 14, 2012 minutes
   5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings
   None

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
   1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
   1. Office operations report
   2. Election of Zoning Board officers

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
## CNMI GOVERNMENT
## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
## RFP12-DEQ-045

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"DEVELOPMENT OF A SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE MONITORING PLAN FOR SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 26, 2012** AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp**

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. FRANK RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 12, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
## TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
## PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-12

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The bid package which includes the scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport"*. One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive and responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 9:00 am, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

March 19, 2012
Date

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
## PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT)
## PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-12

## AMENDED
## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building begining Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport"*. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) insurance requirements, (4) schedule of operation, (5) sufficiency of workers, and (6) financial capability.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2012 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed with a walk through of the facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

03/07/2012
Date:

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
## Office of Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-12-014**
**SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS**
**(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

# Green Meadows is 2012 Academic Bee Challenge champion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five-member team of Green Meadows School was hailed champion of the 17th Annual Academic Bee Challenge for elementary division held last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Monica Aira Usi, Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, Amelito Dalusong Jr., Ezekiel Alfred, and Ashley Reganit topped this year's competition after besting 40 other students from eight other teams coming from private and public schools.

Sponsored by the Marianas High School National Honor Society, the champion team was awarded individual medals, certificates, and the championship trophy.

Coached by teacher Manuel Castro Jr., this year was the first time Green Meadows bagged the prestigious title after finishing fourth during last year's competition.

Green Meadows School garnered 320 points for easy, medium, and hard questions all relating to math, science, social studies, and language arts that were all aligned with the Public School System's curriculum and benchmarks.

According to Castro, the team spent two weeks preparing for the contest. Besides each day's practice, team members were also asked to do their own self-review at home.

For the coach, the students' great desire to win and their team spirit brought Green Meadows School to the top.

He shared that the school bagged 8th place when it first joined the event two years ago, while it won fourth place last year before finally bringing home the bacon this year.

Castro lauded the team's excellent performance and noted the support extended by their families.

Twelve-year-old Monica Aira Usi described her team's winning as unexpected and was overwhelmed by the turnout.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Green Meadows School team that won the championship of the 2012 Academic Bee Challenge pose with their teacher/coach Manuel Castro Jr. during the awards ceremonies last Saturday at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Members of the champion team are Monica Aira Usi, Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, Amelito Dalusong Jr., Ezekiel Alfred, and Ashley Reganit.

This year marked her third time in the competition and each year, she said she gained worthwhile experiences and confidence from joining the event. Usi loves math and enjoys reading, factors she believes helped her team win the title this year.

Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, 11, was a first-timer to the contest. With all the preparation that they did, she said the team truly deserves the honor. "It feels great and surreal. We did our best, and we're very proud."

Also a first-timer to the competition, Amelito Dalusong Jr. expressed his surprise upon hearing the result. The student said he joined the competition because he needed some extra curricular points. "I'm not expecting this…and I am happy that we made it," he told *Saipan Tribune*, describing the whole experience as fun and exciting.

Hailed second best team was William S. Reyes Elementary School, which garnered 315 points in the competition followed by Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary, which recorded 310 points, good for third place.

MHS National Honor Society president Genevieve Gottwald said the competition had a total of 41 questions: 20 easy; 15 medium; and six hard questions involving math, science, social studies, literature, and other academic subjects.

She lauded the participation of nine schools and 45 students from private and public schools in the successful year of academic challenge bowl.

Gottwald said the event is a great preparation for students in their high school where they will be encouraged to participate in numerous academic competitions.

Aside from Green Meadows, WSR, and GTC, other schools that participated in the competition were Grace Christian Academy, Calvary Christian Academy, Kagman Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and San Antonio Elementary School.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

William S. Reyes Elementary School finished second in the 2012 Academic Bowl with 315 points.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School was hailed third best team in the 2012 Academic Bowl with 310 points.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB12-GOV-055**
**Roof Repair & Coating for Six Government Buildings**
**In Capitol Hill**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating for Six Government Buildings in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on April 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the CIP Office. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 10, 2012 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-055".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 23, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 23, 2012 and must be received no later than May 3, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 7, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on April 23, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The security company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars **($200.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR**
**ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES**
**RFQ12-GOV-052**

## Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, March 30, 2012 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All elements of the construction process shall meet standards of the EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**.

The SOQ shall be marked **"Puerto Rico Reservoir Replacement Project, RFQ12-GOV-052"**. For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**. Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on April 16, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 16, 2012** AND must be received no later than **April 25, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

**/s/ Benigno R. Fitial**
Governor, CNMI

**/s/ Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement & Supply

# Ex- maintenance worker sues PSS over lack of compensation for finger injuries

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former maintenance worker at Koblerville Elementary School for 26 years has sued the Public School System and the CNMI government for lack of compensation coverage over the injuries that he suffered in his finger.

Antonino S. Santos, a U.S. citizen, sued PSS, government, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for failure to provide workers' compensation coverage.

Santos, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay him damages in unspecified amount, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Dotts stated in the complaint that Santos decided to proceed with the filing of the lawsuit after the government did not respond to his notice of claim on March 28, 2011.

Dotts said Santos sent a detailed claim to the Commonwealth on Aug. 26, 2011 following the government's request.

According to the complaint, on April 15, 2010, the maintenance worker was injured while working on the job using a table saw.

Santos suffered a lacerated let index finger and injured his distal interphalangeal joint. The finger's shape has been distorted and he has lost the use of the finger. He claimed he is still in constant pain.

Dotts said the worker timely filed a claim with the Workers Compensation Commission.

Dotts said WCC denied the claim because there was no workers' compensation coverage existing for government employees employed by PSS who were injured on the job despite the law that requires all workers in the CNMI to be covered by workers' compensation insurance.

Dotts said PSS failed to remit the appropriate funds to WCC.

The lawyer said although Santos has now retired, he feels it is necessary for him to return to the private workforce to augment his family's income and because of his injury, he is unable to do so.

**FAST WORKSHOP** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Science teachers Sharleen Crisostimo, Victor Borja, and Ben Seman discuss Foundational Approaches in Science Teachins (FAST) before the workshop.

## MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

# Team Joeten/Marianas High School

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

***MMAC Committee's note:*** *As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Joeten/Marianas High School.

Joeten Charitable Foundation has always been involved with the annual Marianas March Against Cancer as a title sponsor, having made a donation in cash and in kind totaling $5,000 for this year's event.

This year, the foundation thought of doing something different and decided to form a MMAC team with Marianas High School, which has had a long history with the annual signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Hearing that MHS is looking for a sponsor, Joeten Charitable Foundation "immediately reached out to them and everything worked out perfectly."

Team Joeten/Marianas High School is led by team captains Frannie Demapan, Joeten marketing manager and buyer, and MHS students Michelle Ngirbabul and Audrey Ada.

To raise funds for the largest cancer event in the CNMI, the team plans to sell drinks and snacks as well as host fun activities and games for children.

For the team, their favorite and fun parts of the MMAC event is not just the race to complete the most laps, but also the lighting of the luminaries which commemorate those who have been directly affected by cancer.

"The lighting of the luminaries is such an amazing moment because out of the darkness, you see all these lights flicker across the entire field and you realize that each candle represents a person who has battled or continues to battle cancer. The scene is shocking but also comforting to know that you're not alone in this epic fight," said Team Joeten/Marianas High School.

The team added that signing up as a team is not for free "but it's well worth it."

"Do it for your parents, siblings, friends, or coworkers. It takes time and effort to build a team but it's nothing compared to the effort individuals have to put forth each day to battle cancer," the team said.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Kagman High School calendar of events

■ April 2: Final Exam. Half-day schedule. Students will be dismissed at 1pm

■ April 3: Final Exam. Half-day schedule. Student will be dismissed at 1pm

■ April 4: Make-Up Day. Regular schedule. Student dismissal at 2:50pm. End of 3r Quarter

■ April 5-9: Spring break, no classes

■ April 10: Classes resume (regular schedule); Add and drop day.

■ April 11-12: Star Reading/ Math Assessment

For more information, call the KHS main office at 664-3780-85 or e-mail: kagmanhs@gmail.com. ***(KHS)***

### CCA board to meet on April

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on April 3, 2012, Tuesday, at 8am in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, MMAC 2012, and program and project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email us at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

### Lost dog

Snow White, a small white Maltese dog, is missing from Garapan. She was last seen on Tuesday afternoon near 747 Restaurant in Garapan. A $100 reward is being offered for her safe return. Please contact Eden Villagomez for information at (670) 789-8621. ***(PR)***

### Found dog

A female adult Golden Retriever has been found in the Papago area. She's seems to be in good health other than being dehydrated and skinny. If this is your dog or you know whose dog she might be, please contact Sandy Weaver at 989-2502. ***(PR)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### April 2, 2002

#### CPA funding sought in waste diversion

The Solid Waste Task Force is seeking the funding assistance of the Commonwealth Ports Authority for the pilot operation of the recycling facility that would divert garment waste from the Puerto Rico dumpsite. Aside from the CPA, the task force is also seeking the assistance of four other shipping companies who are asked to ship out of the Northern Marianas. Solid Waste Task Force Chair and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, in a proposal submitted to the ports authority, said the recycling pilot project for diversion of garment waste will include garment scraps but entails substantial amount of operation.

#### Chamber underscores environmental protection

As a main tourist destination, the CNMI is visited by many nationalities from countries such as Japan, Korea, Australia, and Russia, to name a few. Because of this, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce finds it is extremely important for the CNMI to do all that it can to keep the islands clean, fostering a healthy and viable tourist industry, as well as provide benefits for residents and nonresidents alike. The Chamber is encouraging the community to take pride in their business and home environment by pitching in to keep the islands clean by: Planting trees and flowers i.e. creative landscaping. You may call the Division of Forestry in Kagman to inquire about the flora that they can distribute for planting, as well as tips on proper planting and caring.

### April 2, 2003

#### Solution eyed in settling PSS' old travel accounts

The Public School System plans to set up an allowance or reserve for auditing purposes in connection with its long-outstanding travel accounts. PSS finance director Richard Waldo said this proposed system would apply to old or disputed travel advances that remain on the PSS' books. "For any doubtful travel vouchers not collected, we'd set up an allowance to satisfy the external auditor," he said yesterday. He said the process involves the journal entry concept, which has already been used by the Department of Finance.

#### Babauta vetoes bill appropriating $12.5M for Saipan prison project

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has vetoed the bill that would have appropriated $2.5 million for the CNMI's adult prison project, saying that House Bill 13-252 fails to provide a comprehensive funding plan for the prison project. In a transmittal letter to legislative leaders, Babauta said that the $2.5 million would not be enough to finish the project and that additional funds have to be found soon. The Governor cited records showing that the prison project has an unfunded liability of $10.5 million. Quoting from the contractor's payment schedule, Babauta said that available funds for the project will be expended within a matter of weeks and the infusion of $2.5 million under the bill would only carry the project through July.

### April 2, 2004

#### Governor: No quitting on NMC's La Fiesta

In an apparent show of resolve to push for La Fiesta's Pacific Gateway project, Gov. Juan N. Babauta held yesterday a college proclamation signing at the controversial facility in San Roque, and clearly delivered his message: We will not quit. The governor, who proclaimed April as NMC week yesterday, began his remarks by saying that NMC, which currently faces severe financial difficulty-a situation that prompted it to slow down the project and to consider shutting down the facility-has never been a quitter. "NMC is not a quitter. When NMC was founded in 1981, most people opposed it. Many dared to ask, 'Why do we need a college? We can always go off-island". Despite all that opposition, though, NMC did not quit," he said. In the 1990's, he said, NMC dealt with oversight hearings, protests, and a change in leadership, "but NMC did not quit."

#### Torres: Start work on airport road project

Affected residents are urging the Department of Public Works to urgently implement the Airport Road improvement project, noting the worsened condition of potholes that have made the road unsafe to motorists. Former Attorney General Robert Torres aired this concern, saying that failure to address the potholes and bumps would be irresponsible. This, even as the DPW had reprogrammed Federal Highway Administration funds originally intended for the Airport Road project to the improvement of the Cross-Island Road.

# Family Fair culminates Women's Month celebration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Association culminated its Women's Month celebration with the 2nd Annual Family Fair held at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan last March 31.

The whole-day event brought together some members of the non-profit organization along with other groups, government agencies, and businesses that set up educational and merchandise booths in support of the event.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the CNMI Women's Association smile for the camera during the 2nd Annual Family Fair event held at the Chamolinian Utt last Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sen. Jovita Taimanao, interim president of the CNMI Women's Association, introduce members of the group at the 2nd Annual Family Fair at the Chamolinian Utt on March 31.

Among them were the Public Health Immunization Program, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Division of Youth Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Karidat Social Services.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Division of Youth Services is among the various government agencies and other organizations that set up a booth at the 2nd Annual Family Fair event hosted by the CNMI Women's Association last March 31.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

4. A young girl watches local performer Maggie Naputi and daughter Valerie perform songs to entertain the crowd at the 2nd Annual Family Fair event sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association on Saturday.

At the forefront of Saturday's event, aimed at empowering women and fostering healthy and happy families, were CWA officers Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), interim president; Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), interim vice president; and Betsy Cruz, secretary.

Local performer and CWA's Maggie Naputi and her daughter Valerie also provided live performances to entertain the crowd.

The fair was also an opportunity for CWA to take on at least six new members, including NMC president Sharon Hart, to allow the group to vote on its new set of officers this month.

Taimanao recognized on behalf of CWA the presence and support of male members of the crowd, including her husband, Rick Taimanao, who flew in Saturday morning for the event, family judge Perry Inos, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

"This is a day we need to remember for the women in the community and their families," added Taimanao.

## Project: PROM nets 50 dresses, 20 men's outfits

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence concluded its efforts to provide prom dresses and suits for its latest initiative, Project: PROM, with the support of local businesses and community members,

The coalition held a "very successful" clothing drive at the Minatchom Atdao last Saturday as staff and volunteers collected some 50 dresses and about 20 men's shirts, slacks, and tuxedoes, aside from a number of ties, footwear, handbags, and a wide array of accessories.

The group is scheduled to finalize today the total number of donations they received throughout the collection period for the project which aims to provide donated prom or special occasion dresses and suits to high school students to make prom night affordable for them.

With the success of the project, however, recipients of the donated items will no longer be restricted to only high school juniors and seniors who want to become advocates against domestic and sexual violence, according to coalition program assistant Keala Peters.

Peters said in an interview Saturday that the coalition has been receiving keen interest from younger high school students who also want to stand up and put an end to violence in the community.

"We are very pleased with our collections and we want to thank community members for taking their time to stop by our drop-off locations even during working hours just to make their prom donations new or used," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Peters noted that Tinian and Rota students are also welcome to contact their office if they want to be among the beneficiaries of the donations. "We're willing to see what we can do for them."

She encouraged high school students interested to receive prom dresses and suits to get a form from their respective school counselor, where they will describe how they will become supporters of a movement that does not tolerate violence.

Peters emphasized that the coalition, through the project, is not just giving away donated dresses and suits but also the "whole package" which includes corsages, hair and makeup, tailoring, and dry cleaning services.

Coalition program coordinator Angel Nimwes, for her part, said the overwhelming support and response they received for Project: PROM is a good indicator that they are able to relate to the community one important message.

"We do want to reiterate that we want to empower our youth to become advocates against domestic and sexual violence. Our main goal is to empower young folks to come out and speak out against violence," said Nimwes.

The coalition acknowledged the donations of local companies, namely Pena House, Handbags, etc., and J. Anthony Clothiers.

For more information about Project: PROM, call 234-3878 or email kealapeters670@gmail.com.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Staff and volunteers of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence pose for a photo, with each of them holding either a donated dress or shirt during the clothing drive at the Minatchom Atdao last Saturday.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 15th birthday to Jerome Manuel M. Ortiguerra who celebrated his birthday yesterday, April 1. Greetings coming from Mom, Dad, Kuya Jemo, Janvir, and the Montano family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### SUPER READER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fourth grader Hannah Chan of Saipan International School (SIS) is a reading machine. This school year she has read 57 books and over 2,446,985 words. She has taken 57 quizzes and has passed them all getting 95.8 percent of the questions correct. The Accelerated Reader Program at SIS is in its third year and has improved reading comprehension and vocabulary from grades K-11th grade. Hannah has acquired over 351.5 points that she uses to obtain prizes. After 29 weeks of school, the fourth graders needed 104 points. She has surpassed that by 247.5 points. With a reading level of 5.8, Hannah continues to strive for perfection. She is one of the many "Super Readers" at SIS.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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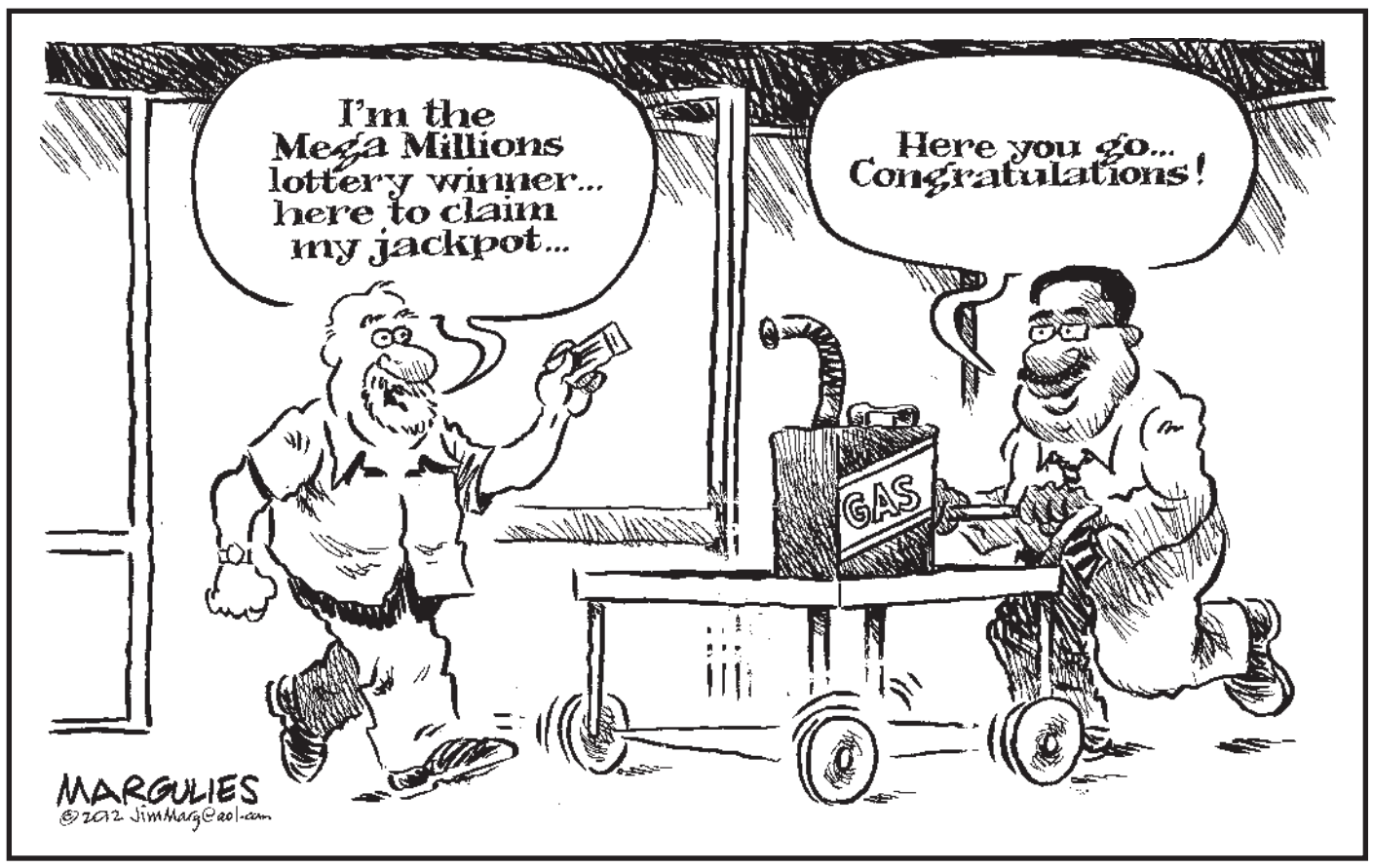



## The Holy Week

**By JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*

The Journey from Palm Sunday to Easter is dramaturgically rich for those who mark their tradition along the Christian lineage, a diversely treasured and a passionately, sometimes turbulently, varied one.

Our colleague Ellie Stock, a presbyter fluid with the pen in prose and poetry, written and spoken (she signs simply as ehjs), crafted the following rap that we share on this side of the Loud Hossanas of the faithful heralding the advent of an incredible journey to "Jerusalem". Whichever Journey the reader is in, we welcome you in your meandering with the following kaleidoscope of literary images.

### JOURNEY RAP: OCCUPY LENT

Cosmic burst to starry rust
Energy to earth, lust to trust
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust
Cellular swamp to fertile muck
Dirt to dirt, breath to breath
Watery tomb to christened death
Seas to seas, sands to sands
Creature to clan, land to land
Gut to heart, heart to command
Mind to hand, hand to hand
Struggle to struggle, pain to gain
Wedging the edge again and again
Eons' frugality to extravagant complexity
Chaos to order, elegant integrity
Agreements of strife to covenant of life
Crisis, opportunity, shadows to light
Pristine sphere to life in balance
No resource price or ownership valence
Heat up, melt down, changing climes
Prophesy transforming times
Oppressive decisions, exploitative trade,
Legitimacy cancelled by portent of Jade
Demagogue to pedagogue
Monologue to dialogue
Alarming pulse to silent calm
Fear succombs to stillness balm
Fragrance, beauty, gift emerge
Awakenment, engagement, fulfillment converge
Unfurnished trance to unfinished dream
Finality to eternity, let it be...
Impotence to power, power to surrender
Life gives, life takes, spirit unconquered
Precious fragility, resilient vulnerability
Illusion's scarcity to equitable sovereignty
Sun to seed, wants to need
Greed to harvest's necessary deed
Universe movemental, economy creational
Livelihood and common good quite sustainable
Pilgrimage from no longer to not yet
Grace unsettled, no boundaries set
Passion alert, Mystery beckons
Humility guides, gratitude reckons
Vision lasered, eyes on the prize

*See HOLY WEEK on Next Page*

## 'Who moved my cheese?'

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.*

In thinking about the changes our beloved CNMI is undergoing and its pains as it tries to adapt to these challenges, I thought of this marvelous book called *Who Moved My Cheese?* After reading the story consider if we shouldn't also seriously consider "who moved [our] cheese" and learn the same lessons some of the characters did.

*Who Moved My Cheese?* discusses an amazing way to deal with change in our work and in our life. It was written by Spencer Johnston and published in 1998. The book is intended to be motivational and is written in the style of a parable or business fable. It describes change in one's work and life, and four typical reactions to said change by two mice and two "little people," during their hunt for cheese. The book was an instant *New York Times* business bestseller since its release and is still read widely by millions of people. Below is a synopsis of the story *Who Moved My Cheese?* taken from Wikipedia.

Allegorically, Who Moved My cheese? features four characters: two mice, "Sniff" and "Scurry," and two little people, miniature humans in essence, "Hem" and "Haw." They live in a maze, a representation of one's environment, and look for cheese, representative of happiness and success. Initially without cheese, each group, the mice and humans, paired off and traveled the lengthy corridors searching for cheese. One day both groups happen upon a cheese-filled corridor at "Cheese Station C." Content with their find, the humans establish routines around their daily intake of cheese, slowly becoming arrogant in the process. They consider this cheese as entitlements.

One day Sniff and Scurry arrive at Cheese Station C to find no cheese left, but they are not surprised. Noticing the cheese supply dwindling, they have mentally prepared beforehand for the arduous but inevitable task of finding more cheese. Leaving Cheese Station C behind, they begin their hunt for new cheese together. Later that day, Hem and Haw arrive at Cheese Station C only to find the same thing, no cheese. Angered and annoyed, Hem demands "Who moved my cheese?" The humans have counted on the cheese supply to be constant, and so are unprepared for this eventuality.

After deciding that the cheese is indeed gone they get angry at the unfairness of the situation and both go home starved. Returning the next day, Hem and Haw find the same cheeseless place. Starting to realize the situation at hand, Haw thinks of searching for new cheese. But Hem is dead set in his victimized mindset and nixes the proposal.

Meanwhile, Sniff and Scurry have found "Cheese Station N," new cheese. Back at Cheese Station C, Hem and Haw are affected by their lack of cheese and blame each other for their problem. Hoping to change, Haw again proposes a search for new cheese. However Hem is comforted by his old routine and is frightened about the unknown. He knocks the idea again. After a while of being in denial, the humans remain without cheese.

One day, having discovered his debilitating fears, Haw begins to chuckle at the situation and stops taking himself so seriously. Realizing he should simply move on, Haw enters the maze, but not before chiseling "If You Do Not Change, You Can Become Extinct" on the wall of cheese Station C for his friend to ponder.

Still fearful of his trek, Haw jots "What Would You do If You Weren't Afraid?" on the wall and, after thinking about that, he begins his venture. Still plagued with worry (perhaps he has waited too long to begin his search…), Haw finds some bits of cheese that nourishes him and he is able to continue his search.

Haw realizes that the cheese has not suddenly vanished, but has dwindled from continual eating. After a stop at an empty cheese station, Haw begins worrying about the unknown again. Brushing aside his fears, Haw's new mindset allows him to again enjoy life. He has even begun to smile again. He is realizing that "When you move beyond your fear, you feel free." After a stop at another empty cheese station, Haw decides to go back for Hem with the few bits of new cheese he has managed to find.

Uncompromising, Hem refuses the new cheese, to his friend's disappointment. With knowledge learned along the way, Haw heads back into the maze. Getting deeper into the maze, inspired by bits of new cheese here and there, Haw leaves a trail of writings on the wall ("The Handwriting on the Wall"). These clarify his own thinking and give him hope that his friend will find aid in them during his search for new cheese.

Still traveling, Haw one day comes across Cheese Station N, abundant with cheese, including some varieties that are strange to him, and he realizes he has found what he is looking for. After eating, Haw reflects on his experience. He ponders a return to see his old friend. But Haw decides to let Hem find his own way. On the largest wall in Cheese Station N, he writes:

Change Happens
They Keep Moving the Cheese
Anticipate Change
Get Ready For the Cheese to Move
Monitor Change
Smell the Cheese Often So You Know When It is Getting Old

*See CHEESE on Next Page*

# Espadan Impitun Politika

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the* Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I Gobietnu as Benigno R. Fitial hana' fan basta i sekretarian dos depattamentu: public works yan tanu. Este na disision megai man-hineñgañg. Ni mas de menos yan usun espadan impitun aplacha' na politika gi prohimu siha ni sumakrisia siha para umana' fan gana pot dos eleksion i paire.

Guiya la'mon ni atoridatña, lau kontra tautau siha ni manachu gi oran estrakada ha'ane yan pueñge? Hafa kinemprendeña amista? Enfin, sobla atmasña para u senyamag yan u fondu i pattidan republican na eleksion ni ha kabesasaye. Añgariyan despedida ha fafana' i republican na biahe.

Ilegña si Fitial na debi tautauña u parehu prinsipiu mapraktitika yan guiya. Ke lau hafa ennau na prinsipiu? I kada ratu malagu gi kelat? Na ti manu hechura esta i seputtura? Kau prinsipiun abarambau i ha fafama?

Yangin ha guiguife satton na dinaña, ke lau taimanu na guiya mismu tumira i platu ni mayamag yan madisgrana? Ni haf' ya u chogue, madisgrana esta i platu ya megai granuña ya ni ñgai'an una chettun tatte.

Ti namatman i mañaña pagu ya lastima sa' hagas hu pega esperansaghu na u diñgu un' dia puestoña kumu i mas maguiaya yan onrau na gobietnu. Lau ha funas todu este gi mapos na Bietnes gi un' sakudida.

Mañgge señor i amista ni hagas un' fachuchu'e pumogsai yan i unna' fan basta siha gi halom man-fiet na tropa? Haye man-aminasa 'nai un' abandona pattidamu? Na ti man-abandona hayumu na man-abarambau un' ratu i tropa ni dumisidi mañaga yan pattidan covenant?

Yangin ni covenant ti unna' fañgontentu, pues ni republican lokue' ti un' fan ma'agim gi este na karera. Yangin un' punu' linala' tautau gi usun espadan impitun politika, ennau mismu lokue' para dimalasmu dispues. Sen man-apase i Saina gi todu che'chu' tinailaye.

■■■

### Integridad gi che'chu' linahyan

Hana' banidosuyu' si Senator Francisco (Frank) Q. Cruz 'nai ha hoñgañg i man-gachoñgña nu ayu na disision komite i para u husga mafahan tanu praibet ni MPLT pot klaru na guaha kantida tanu' publliku guine gi katkuet lugat.

Dañkulu na salape' MPLT tineteka ($272,000) ayu mina' ha gu'ot tatte para u inbestiga tumaimanu ayu na disision. Dinanche disisioña sa' salape' tautau tanu' sumaunau guihe na disposision. I puntu: Kau kabales yan antau ayu na konsiderasion 'nai guaha disposision sin u kabales i ginagagau na numeron membron i board?

Na ti este na chatdisision umatisa na debi u guaha satton na sensian integridad (integrity) gi disposion usun salape' publiku?

Dispues, mit pot mit hektarias na tanu' publiku guaha para maseha hafa na nesessidat ahensian gobietnu. Hafa na ti marepara este lau abundansia tanu? Ti namatman hafa na guaha chumoneg para umapega gi halom 'an yalaka' yan aplacha na hanom huegon politika. Manu 'nai in' pe'lu integridad miyu? Mañge sustansian 'nai man-manhula' hamyu para in' tatiye i ginagagau gi lai siha?

Petsige Señot Cruz hafa esta un' intended chumogue. Megaiña gi silensiu na publiku mañgonfotme ni disisionmu. Unuyu' tatatte gi un' petsisige. Ginen ennau na checho'mu siempre tana fitme tatte umaregla i pisun institusion demokrasia guine gi tano'ta. Si Yuus Maase`!

■■■

### Signifikasion Kuaresmaj

Gi ti mapot na manera, mauleg ta hassun ñaihon hafa signifikasioña i finapos i Sainata guine gi tiempon kuaresma. Gi kinemprendeghu, ha chahlau tinagu' tataña Yuus Tata 'nai iya hululu' ha fanue' hit hafa che'chu' obidiente gi sainamu. Gaige lokue' este na finana'gue gi Dies na tinagu' Yuus.

Segundu, maseha ha lie' mona hafa para u padese ha aksepta mumattitgue' pot gineflie'ña yan guinaiyaña nu hita ni famaguoña. Ti sumeha, ha atrebi makastiga sin umisau gi sisiñan Ponsiu Pilatu estake mapunu' gi kilu'us ya la'la' talu gi mina tres dias. Siempre u fattu talu para u sentensia todus i man-lala'la' yan man-matai.

Gi todu pasuña 'nai ha u'uma i kilu'us, hu konsidedera i namase' na nanaña as Santa Maria, i minesñgon, pinasensia yan hinimiddeña 'nai sige makastiga i lahiña ti deskribiyun siha na kastigu. Inipos ayu na kastigu hombre hafaisen i Saina si Yuus Tata hafa na "un abandonayu". Gi uttimu besis, maseha ti hoñgiyon pinadesiña ha faisen lokue' si tataña na u asi'i i muna' lamen-gue.

Estague' kinemprendeghu signifikasion tiempon kuaresma. I ha'anen pasgua kumonfitma na guaha esperansa para todu ni humoñgge yan gumuaiya i lahen Yuus. Mauleg in' hassun maisa hamyu gi tinayuyot miyu pot para in' sedi i Saina halom gi korason miyu. Taya' mas mañge', ma'ug yan felis na siñiente gi uttimu suspirus i hafa mauleg bidamu para i prohimumu piot i man-namase' yan mamoble. Felis Pasgua!

■■■

Maseha mampos didog pinadesen familia gi halom te'ug na pagyun baban ekonomia, ha satban ñaihon hit i dinaña todus gi halom ti distingiyon na mattirun i tiempu gi inarikonosen unu yan otru. Hana' fan geftau hit i mattiempu piot para ayu na che'luta 'sino un' namase' na poble sa' ennau na finana'gue 'nai man-malulog hit. Mauleg yan felis lamayot patte i para ta faposgue gi karerata mona. Fan agu'ot kanai ya tafan hita todus parehu man-mamokat. Feis Pasgua!

## CHEESE

*From Page 10*

Adapt to Change Quickly
The Quicker You Let Go Of Old Cheese, The Sooner You Can Enjoy New Cheese
Change
Move with the Cheese
Enjoy Change!
Savor the Adventure and Enjoy the Taste of New Cheese
Be Ready To Change Quickly and Enjoy It Again
They Keep Moving the Cheese.

Cautious from past experience, Haw now inspects Cheese Station N daily and explores different parts of the maze regularly to prevent any complacency from setting in. After hearing movements in the maze one day, Haw realizes someone is approaching the station. Unsure, Haw hopes that it is his friend who has found the way. And so on the story continues.

I strongly recommend getting the full text or an audio CD of the book. Though I have listened to this story several times, every time that I listen to it again, I am motivated to rethink my fears and consider the changes I must make to keep ahead. The book or audio can be found on Amazon.

What else can I add that *Who Moved My Cheese?* hasn't presented? So much in that short parable fits closely to many of the concerns we are faced with today in the CNMI. We must change and stop relying on handouts whether from the local government or from the U.S. government. Only our determination and will can help us. There are ways if we wish to find them. Let's be like Haw and seek new ways. Let's stop thinking like Hem. We are entitled to no entitlements except the ones we earn.

Ladies and gentlemen, please take seriously the situation we are engrossed in. It is not a time to point fingers or hurl insults at one another. Let us put aside our personal differences and join arms to accept the fact that someone moved our cheese. It really doesn't matter who moved it, but the fact is that is has been moved. And unless we curb our fears and seek new cheese stations, we will continue to decline.

We have golden opportunities awaiting us. Our land can be our salvation. Our desire to work and produce will help us. Markets are waiting for us to supply them. Let's go back into the maze and seek new cheese stations. Follow me and let's hold hands so that we don't get lost. This will add to our strength while we search.

Remember a big warm SMILE is the window to our hearts. Let's open the window and let our friendship shine through. Have a great week!

## HOLY WEEK

*From Page 10*

Endurance prevails, grassroots rise
Hope unfettered, hope unwound
Hope beyond hope strangely found
Infinite patience, infinite love,
Infinite journey of justing dove.

The journey has began, again.

## Letters to the Editor

# Elites in government

The "Island Elites" are running the CNMI. Who are these "Elites," generally speaking they are many of our elected officials that have found a home in government. Do not misunderstand me, I do not feel that all of our elected officials are "Elites" We have many good people serving the public, but there is a group that feel they are elite and those are the ones that I want to talk about. The CNMI is not alone, just look at Washington, D.C., it is full of Elites. The Elites are people who carry an air of superiority they feel that they are smarter than the folks. They hold their head higher and look down on the rest of us. They sit in meetings with a lot of papers in front of them and look intelligent, and important. When I look at them it seems that they are actors on a stage, only following a script, doing what they are told by their "leadership." This attitude made me feel sad. Why is it that when someone gets elected to a public office they seem to feel that they are better than the rest of us. They work for us, we are not their servants! I want to give your readers some examples of "Elite Characteristics"

1. I have attended many of the legislature meetings. When our legislators come into the meeting, many are often late, carrying many papers, books and laptops. They take their positions behind their microphones and adjust their seating. They look good, even smart! Some may shortly take a nap, others sort through their papers finding trade journals, and newspapers that they read during the meeting. I have seen some use their laptops to shop on line. They look at each other and tell insider jokes, some at the expense of the public, or someone that has been critical about them. When votes are taken the legislators look at each other to see who is voting for or against an issue, they do not want to be out of step with their leadership. When a member tries to lead the meeting agenda, the "old sticking nail", syndrome takes over and the other legislators try to slap down that member. I have seen this happen many times, for example; Tina Sablan often came to meetings ahead of time, well prepared and asked good questions, but the other members would not even give her their attention. I often felt sorry for the members that really tried to get something done. Major problems were not addressed in a serious way. Resolutions on naming roads, or giving credit to someone long dead took more attention than for example, discussing taking CUC private. These legislative meetings must change to be taken very seriously, members must come prepared by fully studying the issues in depth, have held relevant public hearings and to be prepared to debate the issues and not just following what the "leadership" or what the "Governors men" want. I wish they would take questions from the public but they do not. I feel that they really do not want the public to attend their meetings because they do not like being "exposed"

2. Casino's have taken too much of our elite leaders time. They all seem to be involved but know nothing about the details of the issue or the opportunity. The people of Saipan have said NO two times to casinos over a period of years. The people are the boss, not the Legislators, the latter need to learn this fact and if they cannot change their opinion which is against the will of the people, they should resign ASAP! There is market research, social and economic studies available regarding casinos. Have our legislators read these? I have read a few and there are real problems with casinos that would not be good for the CNMI. Where do the Churches stand, I never hear any public comment from them. The children of the CNMI will suffer because of the conflicts casinos bring to homes and families. The people know this! Our elite legislators and Governor know this fact all they have to do is read. Casinos are not a quick fix for our problems, they are a new business development and it takes years to realize any financial benefits for the people. This fact is not rocket science and should be easily understood even by the "elites".

3. The elites of the CNMI seem to believe that the public is uninformed and naive. This might be true for some because of our location and interests. I want to give you a real example. Several years ago a candidate running for public office in Saipan listed his accomplishments in his campaign literature. On his list was: "Voted International Business Man of the Year". His name was listed in a book which was published in Hong Kong. The story that went with this book is that he was being recognized by a distinguished group of international leaders to receive this award. The truth is he paid $25 to get his name in the book. I had received advertisements from the same book company asking me to send in $25 to get my name listed, I did not because it had no meaning. I laughed when I saw this in his campaign literature. The sad thing about this was that voters may have believed what they read. Some of our leaders seem to think that they can "pull the wool over the eyes of the voters". Perhaps they can!! That may be the reasons we see such grandiose numbers coming from our elite leaders for projects they sponsor that always seem to fail or just fade away. We cannot believe or trust our public officials without testing them and their claims. How long will we be fooled? The voters need to select "real leaders" that can be trusted to tell the truth and be open about what they are proposing. Right now it is hard for me to believe anyone on Capital Hill. Our Government has lost the confidence of the people that they serve. We need change that starts by how we vote at the ballot box

**Frank Stewart**
*Capital Hill*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼75° | ▲87° ▼75° | ▲87° ▼75° | ▲87° ▼75° | ▲87° ▼75° |

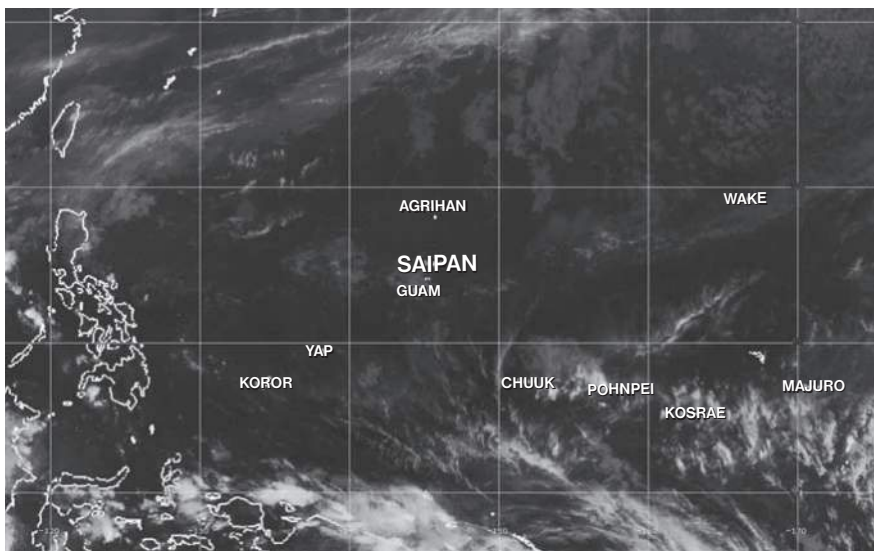
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲90 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲87 | ▼79 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲87 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼80 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲68 | ▼64 |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | ▲58 | ▼36 |
| Hong Kong | Showers | ▲73 | ▼66 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲80 | ▼71 |
| London | Showers | ▲55 | ▼43 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲73 | ▼54 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲88 | ▼78 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ▲75 | ▼59 |
| Miami | Sunny | ▲86 | ▼70 |
| New York | Showers | ▲65 | ▼50 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲60 | ▼47 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲58 | ▼37 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲56 | ▼41 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲69 | ▼53 |
| Salem | Showers | ▲54 | ▼41 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲61 | ▼49 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲46 | ▼36 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲58 | ▼46 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲74 | ▼53 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 25N136E to beyond 22N at 130E. Extensive clouds and widespread rain are found along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Another cold front extends southwestward from near Midway Island through 25N180 to east of Wake Island at 19N170E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line to near Rota at 14N145E to finally end at 13N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary between 180 and 157E west of 157E patchy clouds and light showers are seen along and up to 150 miles of the shear line. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei between 1N and 10N from 153E to 160E and also south of Majuro between 3N and 6N from 165E to 174E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5:38 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.7 Feet |
| 11:19 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.1 Feet |
| 4:23 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet |
| 11:25 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:12 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:11 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:10 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Thursday | 6:10 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Friday | 6:09 AM | 6:30 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 2:07 PM | 2:13 AM |
| Tuesday | 3:02 PM | 2:58 AM |
| Wednesday | 3:59 PM | 3:43 AM |
| Thursday | 4:57 PM | 4:28 AM |
| Friday | 5:57 PM | 5:14 AM |

*Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.*

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

### DEPARTURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 2:40am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 4:50am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05068 | 8:25am | 9:15am | Daily |
| C05074 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 6:50pm | 7:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 3, 6 |
| C05072 | 9:55pm | 10:45pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05072 | 10:05pm | 10:55pm | 3, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)** | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| DL285 | 6:35am | 9:15am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| DL297 | 4:25pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)** | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)** | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:20am | Daily via KIX |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)** | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:35am | 7:05am | 4, 7 |
| DL581 | 4:10am | 7:30am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)** | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| **SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)** | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C05070/191 | 4:35am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:00am | 10:25pm | Daily via NRT |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:40pm | 1, 4, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/193 | 3:10pm | 11:00pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN |
| C05072/PR111 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 | 10:05pm | 7:50am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| **SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)** | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C05076/147 | 3:10pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:30pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 10:50pm | Daily via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C05064 | 5:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 |
| **ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)** | | | |
| C05062 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 |
| **GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05071 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C05073 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05075 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05077 | 5:30pm | 6:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05077 | 5:40pm | 6:30pm | 3, 6 |
| C05079 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05079 | 8:45pm | 9:35pm | 3, 6 |
| **NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL288 | 8:40pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| DL286 | 7:40pm | 12:20am+1 | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| **OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily |
| **SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX |
| OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| **BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 6 |
| DL580 | 10:10pm | 2:55am+1 | 4, 7 |
| **GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| **SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| **MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL172/288 | 8:00am | 1:15am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| C0190/5077 | 10:55am | 6:30pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C0190/5079 | 10:55am | 9:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C05071 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0192/5071 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C0184/5071 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ704/603 | 11:40pm | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| C0184/5071 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| **HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C0180/5071 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

# Business

# Congress gets rough treatment at Supreme Court

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Supreme Court left little doubt during last week's marathon arguments over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul that it has scant faith in Congress' ability to get anything done.

The views about Congress underlay questions from justices who appear to be on both sides of the argument over the constitutionality of the law's key provision, the individual insurance requirement, as well as whether the entire law should be thrown out if the mandate is struck down.

The comments were particularly striking from the conservative justices who have called on unelected judges to show deference to the actions of elected officials.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who appeared strongly in favor of striking down the entire law, was the most outspoken in his disdain for the branch of government that several justices can see from their office windows.

"You can't repeal the rest of the act because you're not going to get 60 votes in the Senate to repeal the rest. It's not a matter of enacting a new act. You've got to get 60 votes to repeal it. So the rest of the act is going to be the law," Scalia said, explaining it might be better to throw the whole thing out.

Justice Anthony Kennedy draw laughs when he asked a lawyer describing what Congress would want the court to do, "Is that the real Congress or a hypothetical Congress?"

Several justices joined in the courtroom's laughing reaction when the lawyer leading the challenge to the law appeared to suggest Congress could pass new legislation "in a couple of days," if the court wiped away the entire law.

The justices thus seemed to be thinking along the same lines as the public, according to polls that show Congress' standing at historic lows.

That outlook, more prevalent among the conservatives than the liberals on the court, is one reason that the Obama administration's lawyers ran into such stiff resistance in questions from the bench.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. repeatedly invoked Congress' power under the Constitution to take aggressive action to deal with health care, which makes up 17 percent of the U.S. economy, and with the problem of 50 million people who lack insurance but whose health costs are being passed on to taxpayers and those with insurance.

The court, Verrilli said at the end of Tuesday's argument session, "has a solemn obligation to respect the judgments of the democratically accountable branches of government."

Certainly, the liberal justices appeared to agree with Verrilli that Congress, then under Democratic control, did not exceed its power.

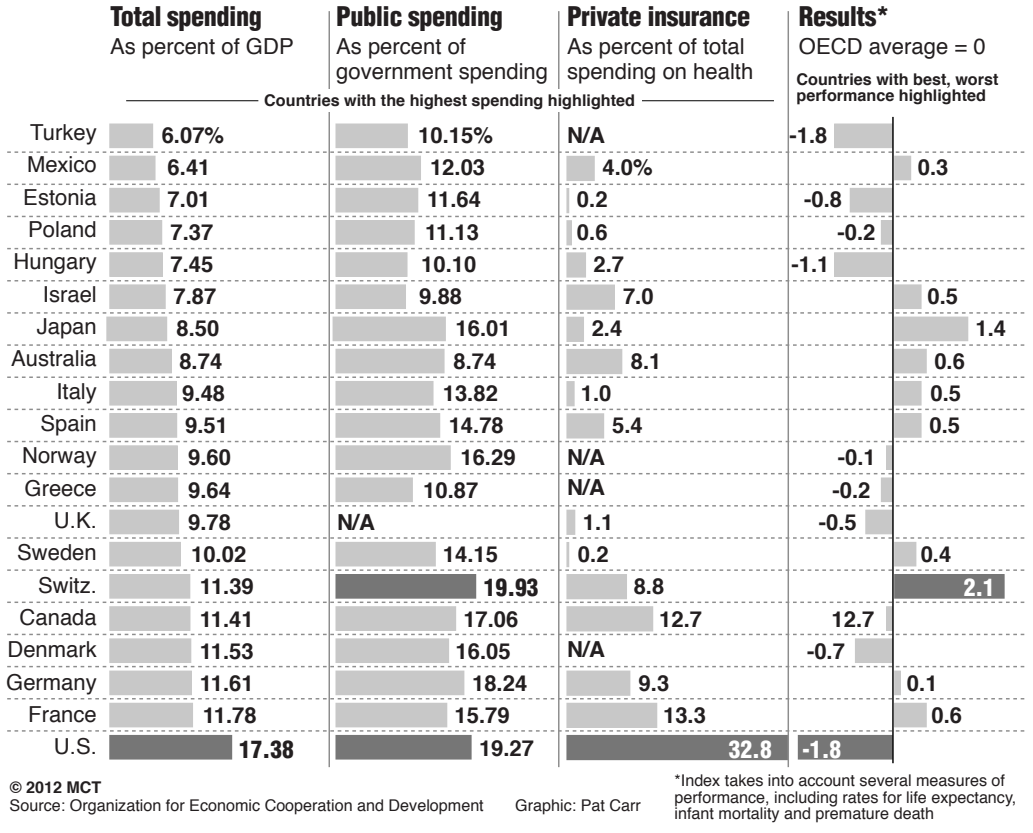
Now, Congress is essentially locked in a stalemate, with power divided between Republicans who control the House and a Democratic majority in the Senate.

Chances are slim that Congress would act to restore any parts of the law that the court might strike down, even noncontroversial provisions.

The bleak prospect for legislation is one reason why Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg urged a cautious approach to a raft of provisions, many already in effect, that have nothing to do with the insurance requirement, including changes to benefits for victims of black lung disease.

## Health report

*Nations that spend the most on health care do not necessarily have the best outcomes, as shown by this spending and performance data from the OECD.*


Total spending
As percent of GDP
Public spending
As percent of government spending
Private insurance
As percent of total spending on health
Results*
OECD average = 0
Countries with best, worst performance highlighted
Countries with the highest spending highlighted
Turkey 6.07% 10.15% N/A -1.8
Mexico 6.41 12.03 4.0% 0.3
Estonia 7.01 11.64 0.2 -0.8
Poland 7.37 11.13 0.6 -0.2
Hungary 7.45 10.10 2.7 -1.1
Israel 7.87 9.88 7.0 0.5
Japan 8.50 16.01 2.4 1.4
Australia 8.74 8.74 8.1 0.6
Italy 9.48 13.82 1.0 0.5
Spain 9.51 14.78 5.4 0.5
Norway 9.60 16.29 N/A -0.1
Greece 9.64 10.87 N/A -0.2
U.K. 9.78 N/A 1.1 -0.5
Sweden 10.02 14.15 0.2 0.4
Switz. 11.39 19.93 8.8 2.1
Canada 11.41 17.06 12.7 12.7
Denmark 11.53 16.05 N/A -0.7
Germany 11.61 18.24 9.3 0.1
France 11.78 15.79 13.3 0.6
U.S. 17.38 19.27 32.8 -1.8
© 2012 MCT
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Graphic: Pat Carr
*Index takes into account several measures of performance, including rates for life expectancy, infant mortality and premature death

# Tribune Broadcasting says no DirecTV deal

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tribune Broadcasting said there's been no settlement with DirecTV Inc. in their contract negotiations, which means DirecTV subscribers in 19 U.S. markets will lose access to certain programming.

In a statement late Saturday, Tribune Broadcasting said that without a deal in place, by federal law DirecTV cannot carry the signal of Tribune's local television stations after midnight, when the agreement expires.

The affected markets include New York, Chicago, New Orleans and Philadelphia.

Tribune president Nils Larsen called the situation "extremely unfortunate."

In its own statement, DirecTV said it had hoped Tribune would allow its programming to remain up while negotiations continue.

Earlier, DirecTV said that it had accepted the financial terms that Tribune's management offered it by telephone two days ago. But Tribune came out with its own statement shortly after, saying that it had not reached a deal or come to terms with DirecTV on any aspect of the contract.

DirecTV fired back, saying in another statement that it had a handshake deal with Tribune on Thursday with an agreed upon rate for their channels.

"Their actions are the true definition of `bad faith' in every sense of the term," DirecTV said.

The satellite television provider also wondered whether Tribune was having difficulty negotiating because of its bankruptcy process.

"Threatening station blackouts to extract an exorbitant fee for all of Tribune's content may provide an improved return for certain banks and hedge funds, but is not in the interest of its viewers and is not a cure for bankruptcy," DirectTV said.

Negotiations have been ongoing for months.

If a deal is not reached, DirecTV subscribers in the markets where Tribune owns the local Fox affiliate will lose access to programs such as "American Idol" and Major League Baseball. Where Tribune owns the local affiliate of The CW Network, DirecTV subscribers will be unable to see shows such as "Gossip Girl" and "Vampire Diaries."

Tribune Broadcasting President Nils Larsen said in a statement on Thursday that if an agreement is not reached, DirecTV subscribers will still be able to watch programs on broadcast stations for free in high definition with a TV antenna or by signing up with an alternative pay-TV provider.

Tribune's broadcasting group owns or runs 23 television stations, WGN America on national cable and Chicago radio station WGN-AM. Its publishing arm includes daily newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and The Baltimore Sun.

DirecTV serves 32 million people in the U.S. and Latin America.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### EU eyes small tax on share purchases

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** (AP)—Tentative support from Sweden for a small levy on share purchases may open the door for a limited tax on financial transactions in the European Union. Europe is looking for a way to recoup some of the billions of euros (dollars) national governments spent on saving banks during the financial crisis. However, a Franco-German plan for a broad tax on financial transaction, including purchases of bonds and derivatives, has been rejected by Britain and Sweden. Derivatives are complex financial instruments whose use has grown exponentially in recent years. The U.K. and Sweden fear that taxing most financial trades would push banks and other financial institutions to relocate to other financial centers in the U.S. and Asia—ultimately leaving governments with even less tax revenue.

### German public workers: 6.3 pct raise over 2 years

**BERLIN** (AP)—Some 2 million German public-sector employees are to get a pay rise totaling 6.3 percent over two years, employers and a union said Saturday after marathon talks that followed disruptive walkouts in recent weeks. The hard-fought agreement banishes the ver.di union's threat to ballot members on an all-out strike campaign had a deal not been reached. "We have agreed to raise public service wages by 6.3 percent over 24 months, in three stages," Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich—the chief government negotiator—announced after talks in Potsdam, outside Berlin, that overran by more than a day.

### Dubai shipbuilder wins debt restructuring support

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Dubai's DryDocks World has secured support from a significant majority of creditors to implement its $2.2 billion debt restructuring, the state-owned shipyard operator said Saturday. The company, a division of the emirate's debt-laden Dubai World conglomerate, has been in talks with lenders for months to hammer out new terms on the debt. It didn't provide details of the revised repayment terms or say how many lenders agreed to the deal. While it has sufficient support to implement the restructuring, a "small minority" of lenders have not signed on to the plan, the company said.

# Obama pushes Congress on millionaires' tax

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama is calling on Congress to increase taxes on millionaires, reviving a proposal he first pitched last September that aims to draw sharp election-year lines between the president and the Republican opposition.

The plan, scheduled for a vote in the Democratic-controlled Senate on April 16, stands little chance of passing in Congress. But it is a prominent symbol of the efforts the president and congressional Democrats are making to portray themselves as champions of economic fairness. Republicans dismiss the idea as a political stunt with little real effect on the budget.

"We don't envy success in this country. We aspire to it," Obama said in his Saturday radio and Internet address. "But we also believe that anyone who does well for themselves should do their fair share in return, so that more people have the opportunity to get ahead—not just a few."

Obama calls the plan the "Buffett Rule" for Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor who has complained that rich people like him pay a smaller share of their income in federal taxes than middle-class taxpayers. Many wealthy taxpayers earn investment income, which is taxed at 15 percent. Obama has proposed that people earning at least $1 million annually—whether in salary or investments—should pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes.

The push for the Buffett Rule comes as millions of Americans focus on their taxes with the approach of this year's April filing deadline.

It also draws renewed attention to the effective tax rate of Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney, a millionaire who is paying 15.4 percent in federal taxes for 2011 on income mostly derived from investments.

By contrast, the top nominal rate for taxpayers with high incomes derived from wages, not investments, is 35 percent.

In his remarks Saturday, the president encouraged listeners to pressure their members of Congress "to stop giving tax breaks to people who don't need them."

While the plan would force millionaires and billionaires to part with more of their money, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that if enacted, legislation reflecting Obama's proposal would collect $47 billion through 2022—a trickle compared with the $7 trillion in federal budget deficits projected during that period.

Obama also renewed his call for ending tax cuts for taxpayers earning more than $250,000. Those breaks, enacted during President George W. Bush's first term, expire at the end of this year.

"Today, the wealthiest Americans are paying taxes at one of the lowest rates in 50 years," Obama said. "Warren Buffett is paying a lower rate than his secretary. Meanwhile, over the last 30 years, the tax rates for middle-class families have barely budged."

The new effort comes just days after the Senate fell short of the 60 votes needed to advance Obama-initiated legislation that would have ended $4 billion in annual subsidies to oil and gas companies. Two Republicans voted with Obama and four Democrats voted against him.

# Nation

## 3 winners, over 100 million Mega Millions losers

**RED BUD, Ill.** (AP)—The Mega Millions winners—at least three of them—stayed out of sight. The losers, who could number 100 million, had plenty to say Saturday about losing out on the world's largest-ever lottery jackpot and their dashed dreams of colossal wealth.

Journalists descended on convenience stores in Illinois and Maryland, and lottery officials there and in Kansas proudly proclaimed they sold winning tickets in the $640 million world record-breaking Mega Millions jackpot. The winners will earn $213 million before taxes. Three other ticket holders became millionaires.

But on the street, online and outside the stores where the winners had purchased their tickets, Americans grumbled about hopes that were raised, and then vanished. And they mused about what they would have done with the money.

"What do I do with this useless lottery ticket now?" Laurel Ashton Brooks of Greensboro, N.C., asked on Twitter.

As the jackpot got bigger by the hour on Thursday and Friday, Americans had snapped up tickets while dreaming of quitting jobs, paying off debts, building hospitals, buying an island. On Saturday, they took to Twitter and Facebook to bemoan their lost, razor-thin chance at millions.

"I knew that when I bought the ticket, that I wouldn't win. But I did it anyhow," said Sean Flaherty, a video game tester in New York City. "The whole notion of `what if" still has some currency with me."

Even President Barack Obama's re-election campaign tapped into the widespread lottery letdown. It sent a fund-raising email with the subject "Jackpot" that began: "Yeah, we didn't either. So we're still at."

All told, Americans spent nearly $1.5 billion for a chance to hit the jackpot, which amounts to a $462 million lump sum and around $347 million after federal tax withholding. With the jackpot odds at 1 in 176 million, it would cost $176 million to buy up every combination. Under that scenario, the strategy would win $171 million less if your state also withholds taxes.

Illinois' winner used a quick pick—an automatically generated set of digits—to select the winning numbers at a convenience store in the small town of Red Bud, south of St. Louis, Illinois Lottery spokesman Mike Lang said. The winning numbers also were purchased at a 7-Eleven in Milford Mill, Md., north of Baltimore, and somewhere in northeast Kansas.

"It's just unbelievable. Everyone is wanting to know who it is," said Denise Metzger, manager of the MotoMart where Illinois' winning ticket was sold.

"All day yesterday I was selling tickets and I was hoping someone from Red Bud would win. Never in my wildest dreams did I think this. I'm just tickled pink," added Metzger, whose store will receive $500,000 for selling the winning ticket, lottery officials said.

Paramedic Dan Parrott walked away from the store with $5 in winnings after checking numbers on his $40 worth of tickets. That won't pay for the new house, new car and the new ambulances he'd decided the jackpot would help him buy in this farming community of 3,700 about 40 miles south of St. Louis.

"I'd love to have all that money, but with all of that money comes responsibility," he said outside the store. "But it'd still be awesome."

James Sitzes emerged from the MotoMart where his check of his six plays flopped. "I bought them at the right place," he shrugged. "I just didn't have the right numbers."

AP

Illinois Moto Mart store manager Denise Metzger looks at an oversized check given to her by lottery officials Saturday morning March 31, 2012, in Red Bud, Ill.

## Protesters march in Fla. town where teen was shot

**SANFORD, Fla.** (AP)—Thousands joined a march Saturday through the Florida town where 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer, vowing to continue protesting until an arrest is made.

Protesters carried signs, chanted "Justice for Trayvon," and clutched the hands of their children while they walked to the Sanford Police Department from a local high school that served black students during the segregation era. The march was organized by the NAACP was one of several taking place over the weekend.

"We live in the middle of an American paradox," Rev. Al Sharpton told the crowd. "We can put a black man in the White House but we cannot walk a black child through a gated neighborhood. We are not selling out, bowing out or backing down until there is justice for Trayvon."

Martin was shot to death by 28-year-old George Zimmerman on Feb. 26 as he walked from a convenience store back to his father's fiancée's home in a gated community outside Orlando. The case has stirred a national conversation about race and the laws of self-defense. Martin, a black teenager from Miami, was unarmed when he was shot by Zimmerman, whose father is white and mother is Hispanic. Zimmerman told police the teen attacked him before he shot in self-defense.

Sharpton and other civil rights leaders, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, spoke during a two-hour rally following the half-mile march.

"This is not about a hoodie, it's about racial profiling," Jackson said. "We will use our marching feet, civil disobedience and every weapon in in our non-violent arsenal until justice is served."

A dozen buses from across the state brought protesters to the rally. Shirley Roulhac-Lumpkin came with a group from Miami Gardens.

"I come from an era where people wore white hoods and nobody arrested the KKK," Roulhac-Lumpkin said. "Wearing a hoodie does not mean you're a hoodlum."

Gary Marion, a nurse who grew up in Sanford, said the Sanford police department is known "as a good ol' boy network and this incident sends a message that our children are worth nothing. I would like to see the chief of police charged with obstruction of justice."

Most of the protesters wore T-shirts with images of Trayvon Martin and many carried handmade posters with messages that read, "Hoodies Don't Kill People, Guns Kill People" and "Mother's Tears Have No Color."

"We come to make sense of this great tragedy and the entire world grieves with us," said Roslyn Brock, who chairs the national board of directors for the NAACP.

## Romney looks to fall campaign, doubts linger

**FITCHBURG, Wis.** (AP)—Appearing ever-more confident in Wisconsin's primary, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney focused entirely on Democratic President Barack Obama during a campaign trip through this upper Midwestern battleground and predicted a victory that could effectively seal the nomination for him Tuesday.

"We're looking like we're going to win this thing on Tuesday," Romney told supporters, suggesting he could also claim wins in Maryland and the District of Columbia that day. "If I can get that boost also from Wisconsin I think we'll be on a path that'll get me the nomination well before the convention."

At the same time, fading rival Rick Santorum sought to stoke doubts about Romney's conservative credentials on the last weekend of campaigning before the critical showdown. It's Santorum's last chance to prove his strength in the industrial heartland, where he's said he can challenge Obama but where Romney has beaten him consistently.

Still, Romney nodded toward evangelical conservatives Saturday, acknowledging the doubts in the former Massachusetts governor that linger with these voters, and foreshadowing the balancing act that will face him in the months to come.

"President Obama believes in a government-centered society. He believes government guiding our lives will do a better job in doing so than individuals," Romney told more than 1,000 Wisconsin conservatives at a Faith and Freedom Coalition meeting in the heart of GOP-heavy Waukesha County. The county, just west of Milwaukee, is home to the state's largest evangelical mega-churches.

Romney, tagged by opponents as rich and detached, appealed to the spectrum of households he will need in the fall should he remain on the likely course to the GOP nomination. He mentioned a single mother he met Friday in Appleton, Wis., a landscaper from St. Louis and a Cambodian immigrant from Texas, all while blaming Obama for "the most tepid, weakest recovery we've seen since Hoover."

Romney Saturday veered slightly from the strict general election message he's offered since winning big in the Illinois primary.

"We were endowed by our creator with our rights. Not the king, not the state, but our creator," Romney told the packed hotel ballroom who would later hear Santorum. Romney promised to restore religious freedom he and other Republicans have accused Obama of undermining, and "to protect the sanctity of life," an issue that has haunted him since his conversion to opposing abortion rights as governor of Massachusetts.

## Search suspended for Colo. woman missing in fire

**CONIFER, Colo.** (AP)—The search for a Colorado woman missing in a wildfire has been suspended after rescuers found human remains in her burned home.

Jefferson County authorities say they don't know yet whether the remains found Saturday are those of Ann Appel, reported missing since Monday.

If the remains belong to Appel, she would become the third fatality in a wildfire that has scorched about 6 square miles southwest of Denver.

An elderly couple found dead in one of the more than two dozen homes damaged or destroyed by the fire were buried Friday.

Residents of about 180 homes remain evacuated.

Firefighters have contained more than 90 percent of the wildfire, which was apparently sparked by a state controlled burn that sprang to life Monday in strong winds.

Jefferson County has tightened its fire restrictions to temporarily ban anything producing an open flame in unincorporated parts of the county, including federal land.

On Saturday morning, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office used an automated call system to warn residents of about 500 homes that gusty winds and dry conditions mean they could be asked to evacuate at a moment's notice.

On Monday, sheriff's officials alerted people to evacuate via the call system, but authorities have said about 12 percent of the people they intended to notify didn't get a warning. Sheriff's spokesman Mark Techmeyer said some people likely hung up after hearing a pause that precedes the automated message, or their phone lines may have been busy.

He said that can happen in any emergency, but authorities were most concerned that there wasn't any attempt to reach an unknown number of additional people registered to get the telephone alerts.

"We want to get to the bottom of this as much as our citizens do," Techmeyer said Friday.

On Friday, the Colorado State Forest Service released its plan for the controlled burn, showing that planners acknowledged there was a potential for fires to escape and cause a "significant threat" to nearby homes.

However, officials thought it was more likely they'd be able to put out any fire before it got that far, partly because of crews and water on site. Officials who wrote the plan insisted that the forest thinning would help protect those homes from a potential wildfire in the future.

# Asia

## Myanmar's Suu Kyi poised to win parliamentary seat

**WAH THIN KHA, Myanmar** (AP)—Myanmar held a landmark election Sunday that was expected to send democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi into parliament for her first public office since launching her decades-long struggle against the military-dominated government.

Sunday's by-election, to fill a few dozen vacant seats, followed months of surprising reforms by a nominally civilian government that does not relish ceding ground to Suu Kyi, but which must appear more democratic in order to emerge from decades of international isolation that have crippled the Southeast Asian nation's economy.

Suu Kyi's party and its opposition allies will have almost no say even if they win all the seats they are contesting, because the 664-seat parliament will remain dominated by the military and the military-backed ruling party.

But if Suu Kyi takes office as expected, it would symbolize a giant leap toward national reconciliation after nearly a quarter-century in which she spent most of her time under house arrest. It could also nudge Western powers closer to easing economic sanctions they have imposed on the country for years.

AP

Myanmar's National League for Democracy party leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, heads towards a polling station at Wah Thin Kha village in Yangon, Myanmar Sunday, April 1, 2012.

In Wah Thin Kha, one of dozens of dirt-poor villages south of the main city of Yangon, which the 66-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate is vying to represent, hundreds of voters lined up outside a single-story public school to cast ballots in a local race pitting Suu Kyi against the ruling party's Soe Min, a former army doctor.

Suu Kyi slept overnight in the tiny village and then paid a morning visit to the polling station, driving slowly through a crowd of supporters and into the school compound to inspect voting facilities. She chatted briefly with voters and returned to her car to begin the drive back to Yangon.

Most residents here are poor, uneducated rice farmers who say that none of Myanmar's much-heralded reforms have trickled down to their village, which has no electricity, running water or paved roads. But they hope Suu Kyi can change that.

"We've heard a lot on the radio about the changes, but our day-to-day life is the same," said one voter, Go Khehtay, who cast his ballot for Suu Kyi. "She may not be able to do anything at this stage. But one day, I believe she'll be able to bring real change."

Another voter, Mya Thaung, said Suu Kyi represents a dream for a brighter future.

"Life is tough here. We make just enough to survive," said the father of four. "We just hope she can improve our lives."

Last year, Myanmar's long-entrenched military junta handed power to a civilian government dominated by retired officers that skeptics decried as a proxy for continued military rule. But the new rulers—who came to power in a 2010 vote that critics say was neither free nor fair—have surprised the world with a wave of reform, prompted in part by a desire to get Western sanctions lifted and to come out from under the influence of Myanmar's powerful neighbor, China.

The government of President Thein Sein, himself a retired lieutenant general, has freed political prisoners, signed truces with rebel groups and opened a direct dialogue with Suu Kyi, who wields enough moral authority to greatly influence the Myanmar policy of the U.S. and other powers.

Her decision to endorse Thein Sein's reforms so far and run in the election was a great gamble. Once in parliament, she can seek to influence policy and challenge the government from within. But she also risks legitimizing a regime she has fought against for decades while gaining little true legislative power.

Suu Kyi is in a "strategic symbiosis" with some of the country's generals and ex-generals, said Maung Zarni, a Myanmar expert and a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics.

"They need her and she needs them to break the 25 years of political stalemate," Zarni said. "She holds the key for the regime's need for its international acceptance and normalization."

On Friday, Suu Kyi told reporters that she hoped "to win the military over, to (make them) understand that we have to work together if we want peace and if we want progress."

The military must understand that "the future of this country is their future and that reform in this country means reform for them as well," she said.

Sunday's poll marks the first foray into electoral politics by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party since winning a landslide election victory in 1990. The military annulled those results and kept Suu Kyi in detention for much of the next two decades. The party boycotted the last vote in 2010, but in January the government amended key electoral laws, paving the way for a run in this weekend's ballot.

## Bombs in southern Thailand kill 14, injure 340

**HAT YAI, Thailand** (AP)—Suspected Muslim insurgents staged the most deadly coordinated attacks in years in Thailand's restive south, killing 14 people and injuring 340 with car bombs that targeted Saturday shoppers and a high-rise hotel frequented by foreign tourists.

A first batch of explosives planted inside a parked pickup truck ripped through an area of restaurants and shops in a busy area of Yala city, a main commercial hub of Thailand's restive southern provinces, said district police chief Col. Kritsada Kaewchandee.

About 20 minutes later, just as onlookers gathered at the blast site, a second car bomb exploded, causing the majority of casualties. Eleven people were killed and 110 wounded by the blasts.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in Thailand's three southernmost provinces - Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala - since an Islamist insurgency flared in January 2004.

"This is the worst attack in the past few years," said Col. Pramote Promin, deputy spokesman of a regional security agency. "The suspected insurgents were targeting people's lives. They (chose) a bustling commercial area, so they wanted to harm people."

Most attacks are small-scale bombings or drive-by shootings that target soldiers, police and symbols of authority, but suspected insurgents have also staged large attacks in commercial areas.

A blast also occurred Saturday at a high-rise hotel in the city of Hat Yai, in the nearby province of Songkhla. Officials had initially attributed that blast to a gas leak, saying it was unrelated to the attacks blamed on insurgents. But after inspecting the hotel's underground parking lot, authorities found a severely damaged sedan and a hole created by the explosion's impact.

The midday explosion at the 405-room Lee Gardens Plaza Hotel, where throngs of Malaysian and Singaporean tourists spend their weekends, killed three people and caused about 230 injuries, mostly from smoke inhalation, said police Lt. Puwadon Wiriyawarangkun.

Regional police chief Lt. Gen. Jakthip Chaijinda said the Hat Yai incident "is likely related to what happened in Yala and might have been plotted by the same group of insurgents."

Police said the blast that occurred at the underground level of the hotel ripped the building's cooking gas pipeline, causing a fire that sent smoke spiraling into the upper floors and trapping many people in their rooms until rescuers came. One of the fatalities was identified as a Malaysian tourist.

A McDonald's restaurant on the hotel's ground floor appeared to have suffered heavy damage from the blast.

The hotel was also targeted in 2006, when four people, including a Canadian man, were killed by six bombs that had been planted on Hat Yai's main street. Hat Yai and the rest of Songkhla province have generally been spared the violence that has wracked Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala.

In Saturday's third incident, suspected Muslim militants detonated a motorcycle bomb 50 meters (55 yards) away from a local police station in Pattani province's Mae Lan district, wounding one police officer, according to police Col. Tharet Kaewla-eiad.

## Stricken cruise ship repaired, heading to Malaysia

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A cruise ship with 1,000 people on board that had drifted for 24 hours after being disabled by a fire was headed toward Malaysia following repairs and was expected to reach shore Sunday, the ship's company said.

The Azamara Quest, which had embarked on a 17-day Southeast Asian cruise, was left drifting in southern Philippine waters after a fire broke out Friday night. The flames engulfed one of the ship's engine rooms but were quickly extinguished, the ship's operator said. Five crew members suffered smoke inhalation, including one who was seriously injured and needed hospital care.

The ship informed the Philippine coast guard late Saturday that its power and propulsion had been restored and that it was moving slowly toward Sandakan, Malaysia, its next destination after it left Manila on Thursday, spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Algier Ricafrente said.

Azamara Club Cruises, the ship's operator, said in a statement Sunday that the ship was sailing at a top speed of only 6 knots (11 kilometers or 6.9 miles per hour) and was expected to reach Sandakan at 10 p.m. (1400 GMT).

"Unfortunately, the ship has not been able to restore power to the air conditioning compressors. While this is a very difficult undertaking, the onboard team is diligently working to resolve this issue. The guest sentiment onboard continues to be calm and upbeat," the statement said.

It said company president Larry Pimentel would meet personally with the passengers and crew in Sandakan.

The company said the rest of the cruise would be canceled. It said it would fully refund the passengers and provide each guest with a future cruise certificate for the amount paid for the aborted voyage.

It was the latest in a series of accidents hitting luxury cruise liners since January, when the Costa Concordia capsized off the coast of Italy, killing 32 people.

The Azamara Quest is carrying 590 passengers and 411 crew members. Operator Azamara Club Cruises is part of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

More than one third, or 201, of the passengers on board are American, and nearly a third, or 119, of the crew are Filipinos, according to lists of passenger and crew nationalities provided by the ship captain to the coast guard.

The passengers are from 25 countries and include 98 from Britain, 89 from Australia, 45 from Canada, 39 from Germany, 32 from Austria, 16 from Belgium, 14 from New Zealand and 14 from Switzerland.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Philippine police bust dog fights, rescue pitbulls

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Police raided a dogfighting facility in a town south of Manila and rescued around 300 pitbulls, many with ripped ears and tongues, police and veterinarian officials said Saturday. Officers arrested two South Korean men suspected of operating the facility and four Filipino security guards during the raid late Friday on a 2-hectare (5-acre) compound in San Pablo township in Laguna province, said Renante Galang of the national police criminal investigation group. The raid followed two weeks' surveillance. Galang said officers confiscated high definition cameras and computers used for an illegal online gambling game where players place bets on dogs they see in livestreamed videos.

### Japan experts warn of future risk of giant tsunami

**TOKYO** (AP)—Revised estimates of the potential impact an offshore earthquake could have on Japan show that much of the country's Pacific coast could be inundated by a tsunami more than 20 meters (65 feet) high. According to Japanese media reports Sunday, a government-commissioned panel of experts says a tsunami unleashed by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake in the Nankai trough, which runs east of Japan's main island of Honshu to the southern island of Kyushu, could top 34 meters (112 feet) at its highest. An earlier forecast in 2003 put the potential maximum height of such a tsunami at less than 20 meters (66 feet).

# World

# World landmarks dimmed for Earth Hour

AP

Volunteers of the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) place candles amongst about 5000 candles to picture the globe prior to 'Earth Hour' in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Saturday, March 31, 2012.

**LONDON** (AP)—Hundreds of world landmarks from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to the Great Wall of China went dark Saturday, part of a global effort to highlight climate change.

Earth Hour, held on the last Saturday of March every year, began as a Sydney-only event in 2007. The city's iconic Harbor Bridge and Opera House were dimmed again this year.

Australia is among the first countries to flick off the light switches each year; in New Zealand, Sky Tower in Auckland and the parliament buildings in Wellington switched off two hours earlier; Tokyo Tower was also dimmed and in Hong Kong, buildings along Victoria Harbour also went dark. All the events take place at 8:30 p.m. local time.

The WWF, the global environmental group which organizes the event, said the number of countries and territories participating has grown from 135 last year to 147 this year.

"Global warming is a big issue," said Rudy Ko, of Taiwanese environmental group Society of Wilderness. "Everybody can help reduce the problem by turning the lights off."

Ko said children should invite their parents "to turn the lights off, go out, go to the parks to do some exercise, and enjoy some family time instead of watching TV or play video games."

In Europe, 5,000 candles were lit in the form of a globe in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate before city officials switched off the monument's lighting.

More than 230 monuments and major gathering points in Paris were expected to dim lights for an hour—including Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Triomphe, as well as fountains and bridges over the Seine.

An exception: The Eiffel Tower, which the mayor's office said would go dark for only five minutes "for security reasons."

Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge and St. Paul's Cathedral were among the other London landmarks to go dark. Managers at the Savoy hotel planned to light the lobby, bars and restaurants with candles.

"Let us stand together to make of our world a sustainable source for our future as humanity on this planet," the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory said in a tweet.

Across the Nordic nations, government buildings and municipalities joined in, including Stockholm's royal castle and the Swedish capital's huge globe-shaped sports arena. In Sweden's second-largest city, Goteborg, the main boulevard was bathed in an hour's darkness. People launched paper lanterns into the air in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Washington's National Cathedral and New York's Empire State Building also took part.

Libya, Algeria, Bhutan and French Guinea are among those participating for the first time.

"Earth Hour 2012 is a celebration of people power; the world's largest mass event in support of the planet," WWF official Dermot O'Gorman told reporters in Sydney.

## Mali rebels attack northern town in coup aftermath

**BAMAKO, Mali** (AP)—Rebels on Saturday attacked Mali's strategic northern city of Gao, a day after they took the provincial capital of Kidal, witnesses and an official said. The move deepens the crisis in the landlocked nation at the feet of the Sahara after a coup earlier this month by Malian soldiers angry at the government's handling of the rebellion.

The two towns are major prizes for the Tuareg rebels, who launched an insurgency in January fueled by the flow of arms from the fall of neighboring Libya, where many of the rebels had been on the payroll of Moammar Gadhafi.

Gao is around 1,200 kilometers (almost 750 miles) from the capital of Bamako, where junior officers overthrew the elected government and claimed power 10 days ago.

The countries neighboring Mali have condemned the coup and have given the military junta a 72-hour deadline, which expires on Monday, to hand power back to civilians or face crippling sanctions. On Saturday, the junta sent a delegation to meet with the president of neighboring Burkina Faso. The representative of the junta, Col. Moussa Coulibaly, told reporters afterwards that they were "leaving feeling confident and we hope we will quickly reach a consensus on how to restore the institutions of the state in a way that will be acceptable to the whole world."

Coulibaly also said that the junta has no intention of holding on to power. Back in Bamako, the leader of the coup Capt. Amadou Haya Sanogo met late Saturday with Burkina's foreign affairs minister. Sanogo emerged to say that "the conclusions are very positive," though he refused to elaborate.

However, a senior official in one of the nations neighboring Mali said that he spoke by telephone on Saturday to Sanogo who proposed that he should remain president during a transitional period leading up to elections. Sanogo added that he would head a government where all the other members would be civilians, not soldiers, the official said.

The official, who could not be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, said that "his proposal is unacceptable" and that there must be a clear-cut return to constitutional rule.

Sanogo claimed that he seized power because of the government's inability to handle the insurgency in the north. Instead since the March 21 coup, the rebels have taken one of the three main towns in the north and are on the verge of taking the second, while the third remains on high alert.

## Venezuelan leader returns to Cuba for treatment

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez traveled to Cuba on Saturday for another round of cancer treatment, saying he will be in Havana for several days and then return home.

Chavez boarded the presidential jet on Saturday night accompanied by one of his daughters. His aides and military chiefs saw him off at the airport.

He said during an earlier speech to supporters that he was traveling to Havana for a second round of radiation after recent surgery to extract a second cancerous tumor in his pelvic area. Chavez had another tumor removed from the same place in June.

The 57-year-old leftist president, in office since 1999, has vowed to overcome cancer to win another six-year term in the Oct. 7 election.

Chavez has not identified the type of cancer, nor the precise location where the tumors were located. He has said he is choosing to undergo treatment in Cuba because it's where his cancer was originally diagnosed and where his surgeries have been carried out.

Chavez said that after his second round of five daily sessions of radiation, he expects to return to Caracas on Wednesday or Thursday. He has said he expects to be traveling to and from Cuba for the treatments in the next several weeks.

Before departing for Havana, Chavez reiterated claims that he believes opposition leaders might not accept the results of the October election if he wins, and that "they're making plans to try to generate violence, to try to destabilize the country." He did not provide evidence to back those claims.

Chavez has made similar accusations in the past, but this time he also warned bankers who sympathize with the opposition that if the government finds they have provided financial support to any such conspiracy, the government could nationalize their banks.

"Since I know there are private bankers supporting the opposition— and with a lot of money— be careful, private bankers," Chavez said in a televised speech. "It's one thing for you to support a democratic movement... and it's something else for you to support destabilizing movements."

Opposition presidential candidate Henrique Capriles dismissed Chavez's claims.

"We're committed to accepting the will of the people," Capriles told reporters. "What those accusations are intended to do is instill fear in the people."

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Nicaraguan businessman accused of drug trafficking

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua** (AP)—Nicaraguan authorities said Saturday that the apparent target of an attack that claimed the life of Argentine folk singer Facundo Cabral last year is being charged with drug trafficking. Businessman Henry Farinas and six others are accused of trafficking, money laundering and ties to organized crime, said police spokesman Fernando Borge. Farinas was believed to be the intended target of last year's ambush in Guatemala that killed Cabral. The businessmen was driving the folk singer to the airport when their car was ambushed by gunmen. Farinas survived.

### Christians mark Palm Sunday in Jerusalem

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Hundreds of Christian pilgrims are visiting the Holy Land to mark Palm Sunday, the day Jesus Christ made his triumphant return to Jerusalem. The faithful are expected to march from the Mount of Olives to the holy city behind a white donkey, retracing Jesus' traditional route from 2,000 years ago. Early Sunday, visitors walked down the cobblestone alleyways of the walled Old City carrying olive branches, palm fronds and crosses. The day marks the start of Holy Week, which ends the following Sunday with Easter.

### Canadian man released from Lebanese jail

**OTTAWA** (AP)—A Canadian farmer returned home Saturday after being released from a Lebanese jail where he had been held for a year on allegations that he exported rotten potatoes to Algeria. Potato farmer Henk Tepper looked drained as he was reunited with his family Saturday afternoon at the Ottawa airport. "I'm happy to be home," he told a throng of reporters as he left the customs area. He said little else during a makeshift news conference outside an airport lounge, where he had spent his first hour back home with family members.

# Focus

**STANLEY, Falkland Islands** (AP)—Thirty years after Argentina and Britain spilled blood over these remote islands in the South Atlantic, the scars of war are still being scratched raw.

AP

In this Sunday March 4, 2012 photo, debris from one of Argentina's Chinook helicopters which was bombed by British forces during the 1982 war, litters the hill above Stanley, Falkland Islands.

# 30 years after Falklands war, visible scars remain

By MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press

Argentina's occupation of the islands it claims as "Las Malvinas" lasted just 74 days, but the trauma extends well beyond the families of the 907 people killed.

Islanders still live among land mines the Argentines planted; only light-footed penguins can step onto the beautiful white-sand beach just outside town where troops came ashore on April 2, 1982. Islanders still feel they need an extensive military garrison, with warships and a nuclear submarine circling somewhere in the deep, to protect them from their Latin American neighbor.

Arriving planes and cruise ships make some islanders worry whether Argentines on board will make trouble. Each day they steel themselves for news of another attempt to isolate them economically and diplomatically, part of the Argentine government's intensifying campaign to pressure Britain to concede sovereignty.

Islanders will turn out for a march by the Falkland Islands Defense Force on Sunday, remembering the day their local militia mobilized just ahead of the invasion, while Argentines hold vigil at their Monument to the Fallen, in Ushuaia, capital of the country's southernmost province. On Monday, President Cristina Fernandez will be in Ushuaia as well, leading rallies nationwide that honor the veterans as heroes and press her country's claim.

"Although 30 years is quite a while, on the other hand it's yesterday. As soon as you start making threats all that comes back again. It makes people nervous, it puts people on edge. We don't believe they'll use military force, but the other things they are doing aren't helpful," said Tony Smith, an islander who gives tours and laments the hardening positions on both sides. "Nearly every Argentine I've met has been perfectly all right," he says.

Argentines also see themselves as victims. Many focus their anger on Britain's historical role as the world's leading colonial power, even though the islands are no longer a colony, and blame the 1982 war on the military junta that led Argentina at the time, even though taking the islands by force had considerable popular support.

Polls show most remain convinced that "Las Malvinas" have always been Argentine, and are cheered by President Cristina Fernandez's current campaign. But looking deeper can be painful because her nationalist speeches only seem to push the islands farther from reach.

"It's a very emotional subject for us. We still teach our children that the Malvinas are Argentine. I still hope they will be," said Marcelo Pozzo, 49, who was a 19-year-old conscript sailor when he survived the sinking of the Argentine Navy's light cruiser General Belgrano by British torpedoes.

"We don't know what the presidency is trying to accomplish," said Pozzo. "It should be trying to build ties, but the islanders don't want to be close to Argentina. They want to live in peace."

For Pozzo and other Argentine war veterans, emotions are even more complicated because they were drafted by a military focused on eliminating leftist "subversives" at home, then sent into a war they were unprepared for. Soldiers were abused by their own officers during the occupation, sometimes left nearly starving as supplies rotted on the docks, or freezing in foxholes in clothes meant for northern Argentina's subtropics.

Gustavo Pirich remembers the blows he received from a superior officer for stealing food from a warehouse in desperation. Officers ate the meat and potatoes, leaving the troops with nothing but watery gruel, said Pirich, who testified that such abuses are still-prosecutable war crimes—a question now before Argentina's Supreme Court.

Pirich still suffers from trench foot, caused by prolonged exposure of the feet to damp, cold and unsanitary conditions, as well as the panic attacks and irritability that come with post-traumatic stress syndrome. He acknowledges that "one day I looked with great love at an open window," but says he overcame suicidal thoughts through years of therapy and medication.

"We were very young, completely innocent. Nobody thought we were going to war. We didn't know what war was," said Pozzo, now a systems engineer, describing the harrowing experience of surviving the sinking that killed 323 fellow sailors.

After their surrender that June 14, a day islanders now celebrate as "Liberation Day," the Argentines returned to a country ashamed, and many had experiences familiar to U.S. Vietnam War veterans. There were no ticker-tape parades; nobody wanted to remember the humiliation.

"In the early years there was neglect, a lack of attention. To see a war veteran was to see living proof of a mistake," said Dario Volonte, another Belgrano sinking survivor and now a renowned operatic tenor who credits Eastern religion for helping him avoid suicide.

It took more than ten years before the veterans were granted monthly war pensions. The first mental health clinic focused on their care opened just last month, too late for the 439 veterans, by the president's count, who committed suicide after the war. The only government mental health survey of veterans, in 1995, found that more than 80 percent still suffered from anxiety and irritability, and 58 percent said they were frequently depressed.

"As with other facts of national history, the episode of the Malvinas war remains one of those hazy things that nobody wants to examine too closely," said psychologist Maria Cristina Solano, who ran the survey. "But there still remain survivors, and traces of things that keep it from being forgotten."

Hundreds of the 649 Argentine and 255 British soldiers who were killed, along with three elderly islanders whose house was hit by friendly British fire, were buried on the island in separate cemeteries. Because many Argentine soldiers lacked dogtags, nearly half of their graves are inscribed with the words: "known only to God."

Argentine Justice Minister Julio Alak recently promised veterans to identify the remains through DNA, saying "It's not possible that 30 years after the conflict there are still 123 Argentine heroes without a name, forgotten in anonymity."

Pozzo is against it, saying too many corpses were blown to pieces. "It would be very hard for the people to see that," he said.

John Smith, an islander whose book "74 days" details the suffering of the occupying troops, said "it would serve no useful purpose at all."

"They're resting there thinking they've got a complete son or husband buried in the Falklands, but in actual fact, they might not be as complete as you'd imagine," Smith said.

Many islanders interviewed ahead of the anniversary still have sympathy for the Argentine troops they met during the occupation, while scorning their officers.

The Argentines had arrived thinking that they'd be welcomed, and that Britain would let Argentina take over without a fight. They handed out fliers saying: "People of the Malvinas: You have been liberated from the illegal colonial government. The People and Armed Forces of Argentina embrace you as brothers. JOIN US IN FORGING A GREAT FUTURE FOR THE ISLANDS."

"The poor soldiers who arrived in 1982 honestly thought they were here to liberate a poor Argentine population from under the hell of the wicked Brits," recalled Jan Cheek, a member of the islands' legislative assembly.

Instead, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher mobilized an armada that traveled 8,000 miles (13,000 kilometers) and quickly drove the Argentines to surrender. The military force that remains has enabled the islands to diversify from a sheep-farming backwater into a potential offshore oil hub that could make the islanders the world's richest people.

That infuriates Argentines who see an imperial enemy dominating the developing world's resources again. And it has islanders feeling more suspicious than ever that their neighbor wants to take over everything they've built.

"Given the macho mentality that exists in Argentina, that attitude will always exist there," said Dick Sawle, another legislative assembly member. "Their intention would only be to destroy what we already have. They would want to take it and claim it and destroy it."

Argentina war veteran Ramon Lopez recalls the death of a fellow soldier he'd known for years.

"Seeing him die was very sad because of the way he died; he bleed to death. A shot hit a femoral (artery) and he bled out," Lopez said.

Argentine forces couldn't rescue his friend immediately because of the presence of British troops and by the time they got him out it was too late, Lopez recalls.

The veteran says he hopes there are no more wars, but added that "many of us should live just one day of war to appreciate life in its full magnitude."

# Health & Fitness

# Doctors find clue in quest to predict heart attack

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Too often, people pass a cardiac checkup only to collapse with a heart attack days later. Now scientists have found a clue that one day may help doctors determine if a heart attack is imminent, in hopes of preventing it.

Most heart attacks happen when fatty deposits in an artery burst open, and a blood clot then forms to seal the break. If the clot is too big, it blocks off blood flow.

The problem: Today's best tests can't predict when that's about to happen.

"We don't have a way to get at whether an artery's going to crack, the precursor to a heart attack," said Dr. Eric Topol, director of California's Scripps Translational Science Institute.

Wednesday, Scripps researchers reported a new lead—by searching people's blood for cells that appear to flake off the lining of a severely diseased artery.

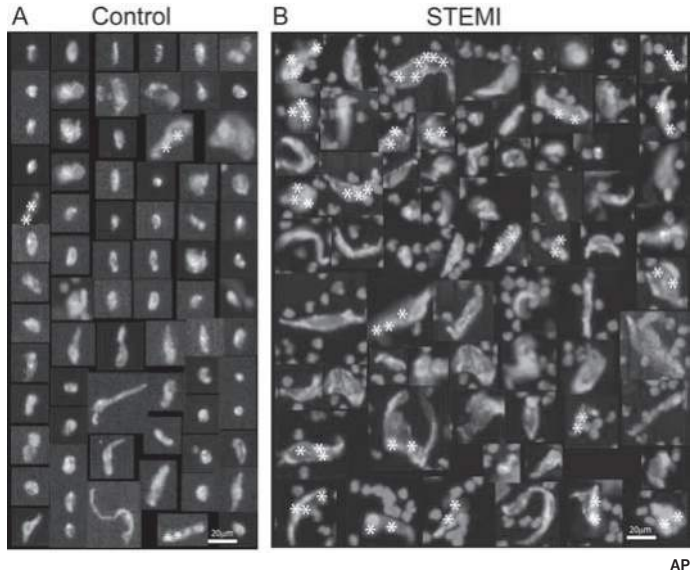
Topol's team measured high levels of those cells, deformed ones, floating in the blood of 50 people who'd just had a heart attack. The research is reported in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Next, Topol said his team soon will begin needed studies to learn how early those cells might appear before a heart attack, and if spotting them could allow use of clot-preventing drugs to ward off damage. Some San Diego emergency rooms will study an experimental blood test with chest-pain sufferers whose standard exams found no evidence of a heart attack, he said.

Don't expect a test to predict heart attacks any time soon—a lot more research is needed, caution heart specialists not involved with the study. But they're intrigued.

"This study is pretty exciting," said Dr. Douglas Zipes of Indiana University and past president of the American College of Cardiology. It suggests those cells are harmed "not just in the minutes prior" to a heart attack, he said, "but probably hours, maybe even days" earlier.

"It's a neat, provocative first step," added Dr. William C. Little, cardiology chief at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.




AP
This undated handout images provided by Science Traditional Medicine/Scripps Translational Science Institute, shows on the left normal, healthy circulating endothelial cells (CEC). On the right are CECs from heart attack patients which appear abnormally large, misshapen and with multiple nuclei.

"But it is not a biomarker ready for prime time."

About 935,000 people in the U.S. have a heart attack every year, according to government figures. Doctors can tell who's at risk: People with high blood pressure and cholesterol, who smoke, have diabetes, are overweight or sedentary.

But there's no way to tell when a heart attack is imminent. Tests can spot that an artery is narrowing, or if a heart attack is under way or already has damaged the heart muscle. They can't tell if the plaque inside arteries is poised to rupture.

So it's not that uncommon for someone to suffer a heart attack shortly after passing a stress test or being told that their chest pain was nothing to worry about.

Wednesday's study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, investigated cells shed from the endothelium, or the lining of blood vessels, into the bloodstream. They're called "circulating endothelial cells."

First, Topol's team paired with Veridex LLC, a Johnson & Johnson unit that makes technology used to find cancer cells floating in blood. Could it find these cardiovascular cells, too?

The team took blood samples from 50 heart attack patients—before they had any artery-disturbing tests or treatments—and from 44 healthy volunteers. They counted lots of the endothelial cells floating in the heart attack victims' blood, and very little in the healthy people's blood.

The big surprise: The cells in the heart patients were grossly deformed. "Sick cells," is how Topol describes them.

*Death and Funeral Announcement*

**Francisco Santos Deleon Guerrero**

BORN TO LIFE: JANUARY 25, 1933 • CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: MARCH 27, 2012

***In his new life; he now joins his:***
***Wife:*** ***†Elizabeth Manibusan Castro Deleon Guerrero***
***Parents:*** *†Jesus Diaz Deleon Guerrero & †Josepha Santos Deleon Guerrero*
***Parents in Law:*** *†Jose Villagomez Castro & †Rosa Manibusan Castro*
***Son in Law:*** *†Dennis W. Cruz*

***His remains will forever live in the hearts of his:***
***Children:*** ***Josephine*** *and Victor Mesta (Dion & Carina, Christine, Dominic)*
***Antonio*** *and Annie Deleon Guerrero*
***Barbara*** *and Ben Sablan (Nikkie, JR, Megan and Liam)*
***Joaquina*** *& Ramon Chong (Christopher & Ashley (Ireana & RJ), Francisco (Christopher), Dennis, Rayna, Rakina)*
***Theresa*** *DL Guerrero & Ricardo Cabrera (Terrika, Craig, Caitlin)*
***Ramon*** *DL Guerrero (John Franklin)*

***Brothers & Sisters:***
*†Vicente S. Deleon Guerrero & †Dolores T. Deleon Guerrero*
*Isabel DLG Campos & Jesus Campos*
*Angie DLG Balecha & Flor Balecha*
*Cathy DLG. Quinata & Jess Quinata*
*Ramon S. Deleon Guerrero & Ramona Villagomez*

***Brothers and Sisters and In Laws:***
*†Manuel M. Castro & †Maria J. Castro*
*†Nicolasa M. Castro & †Lorenzo Roberts*
*†Marceliano M. Castro& Dolores B. Castro*
*†Francisco M. Castro & Rosa O. Castro*
*Maria C. Porter & †Lee B. Porter*
*†Rosario O. Camacho*

***He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunties and cousins.***

*His remains will be arriving Saipan on Monday, April 02, 2012 and will lie in state at Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.*

*Mass of Intention is being celebrated at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00pm. From Wednesday of Holy Week till Easter Sunday, nightly rosary will be prayed at their residence in Kagman.*

*Funeral Services will be held on Easter Monday, April 09, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church – Kagman, Saipan. Responso Service will be at 7:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be at a peaceful rest with his late wife †Elizabeth.*

*Please join us in prayers,*

***Children and Family of the late †Francisco Santos and †Elizabeth Castro DeLeon Guerrero***

10TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
*In Loving Memory of*

ANA BORJA ROBERTO

We the family , invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Tenth Year Death Anniversary of our beloved "Ana" unto eternal life.

Rosaries will be held nightly at the residence of Felipe A. Roberto at 7:00 P.M. starting Wednesday, April 4, 2012 and ending on Thursday, April 12, 2012.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

**The Family**

# Life & Style

## Aldean explains why ACMs are 'special' to him

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Jason Aldean will always remember his first time.

That's why the Academy of Country Music Awards hold a special place in his heart.

"I won my first award ever at the ACMs," he said. "So yeah, it is special."

Aldean won the ACM's Top New Male Vocalist award in 2006.

His music caught fire with fans soon after, but it took longer for the industry to catch up. Last year, the ACMs were the first awards show to nominate him in the entertainer of the year category. The Country Music Association Awards followed suit in the fall.

Even though he lost both times, the recognition alone marked a breakthrough.

"Last year finding out we were up for entertainer of the year was obviously a big moment for me in my career," said Aldean. "To get nominated again this year, we're excited to be heading back."

Aldean has the second most ACM nominations behind Kenny Chesney, with six, including entertainer and album of the year. His No. 1 duet with Kelly Clarkson, "Don't You Wanna Stay," is up for ACM single of the year and vocal event of the year at the awards show, airing Sunday, April 1 on CBS.

He released the platinum-selling hit at the end of 2010, and over the past year and a half, he has performed it with Clarkson at the CMAs, the Grammys, on TV shows, and at the CMA Music Festival last June.

"It's crazy. It seems like that song was out forever, but it was a huge, huge song for my career, and obviously this year we got nominated for a Grammy and things like that. So it's just, that song has been amazing," said Aldean. "I can't believe it's still up for awards, but I'm glad it is."

The momentum behind Aldean's "My Kinda Party" album has been building since it was named album of the year at the CMAs in November. He's hoping for another album win on Sunday and has plans to follow it up with new material he recorded in December.

"I think anytime you win an award like that and you kind of get recognition from the industry on something like that that you've done, I think it makes you feel good, obviously, and have confidence in what you're doing," he said. "Does it change how I prepare for my next record? Not really. I think what won us that award was me going in and doing things the way I have always done them, and that's kind of the way I'm looking at our new record, too ... I can't wait for people to hear that."

Aldean also is up for male vocalist and video of the year for "Tattoos On This Town."

AP

In this March 3, 2009 file photo, country music performer Jason Aldean poses for a photo in Nashville, Tenn.

## *Thompson Square wins ACM vocal duo award*

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The husband-and-wife duo Thompson Square is The Academy of Country Music's vocal duo of the year.

The win was announced Saturday night during the ACM Salute to the Military concert in Las Vegas. Academy CEO Bob Romeo surprised Shawna and Keifer Thompson on stage with the news.

The remaining awards will be handed out at Sunday night's ACM Awards, co-hosted by Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton and airing live on CBS at 8 p.m. EDT.

Thompson Square beat out reigning winner Sugarland, Steel Magnolia, Montgomery Gentry and Love and Theft.

The Thompsons are the first duo other than Brooks & Dunn or Sugarland to win the award since 1991. The Dixie Chicks trio won in 1998-99 when it was given to duos or groups.

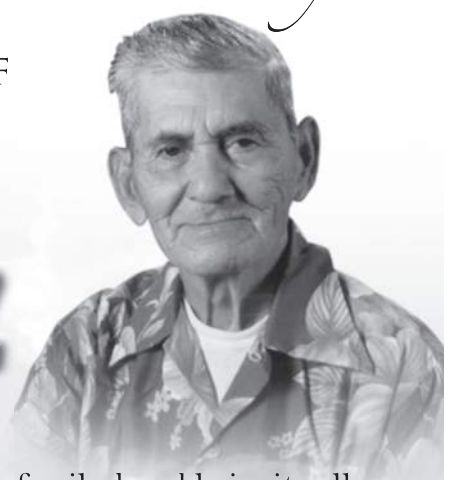
In this Oct. 27, 2011 file photo, musicians Keifer Thompson, left, and Shawna Thompson, of the group Thompson Square, pose fora p ortraiti nL osA ngeles.

AP


*20th Year Death Anniversary*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**FELIX CRUZ VILLAGOMEZ**



We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved Felix unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning On March 26 through April 3, 2012 at 6:00 AM. On Tuesday, April 3, 2012 Mass will be celebrated at 6:00AM followed by breakfast at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Children and Family



*In Celebration of His New Life*

**Leslie Salas DeBrum**

**Lovingly known as "Bole"**
**Born on March 06, 1960**

*Was called to eternal life on March 28, 2012 at the age of 52*

***In his new life he now joins:***
***Father:*** *Captain Robert Anthony DeBrum*
***Mother:*** *Felisisima Salas DeBrum*
***Brothers:*** *Ronald Salas DeBrum & Edmond Salas DeBrum*

***He is survived by:***
***Wife:*** *Eloise A. Kannely*
***Grandchildren:*** *Kali, Jose, Alex, Alyssa, Christhena*
***Children:*** *Christopher, Carrie, Kathleen, Jennifer*
***Sister in Law:*** *Leriza S. DeBrum*
***Niece/Nephew:*** *Felicia & Robert DeBrum*
***Sister/Brother in Law:*** *Ida Salas DeBrum & Paul C. Camacho*

*Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning on March 29, 2012*

*On Wednesday April 04, 2012, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. immediately followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.*

*Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank you*

***The Family***

# Bieber, Berry slimed at Kids Choice Awards

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

Justin Bieber gets slimed after accepting the award for favorite male singer onstage at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 31, 2012 in Los Angeles.

At the 25th annual Kids' Choice Awards, the slime runneth over.

Host Will Smith opened the 25th annual Kids' Choice Awards promising a record amount of the show's trademark green gunk. Though some 20 awards are presented at the KCAs, the real suspense isn't who will take home a "Blimp" (the show's Oscar), it's when and on whom the slime will spill.

It's like a baptism into kiddome that can come at any moment: from a hidden bucket, dumped from the rafters or exploded from little orange blimps.

"No one is safe from the slime!" screamed Smith. "You have to earn the slime! It's an honor."

Halle Berry was the first to be covered, but she was far from alone. She was joined by "Twilight" star Taylor Lautner (who won favorite "buttkicker"), "Glee" star Chris Colfer and male singer winner Justin Bieber, who was utterly drenched along with Smith at the end of the show.

The KCAs are Nickelodeon's annual celebration for kids, and it's often the most-watched children's program of the year. They draw a considerable roster of stars looking to thank their smallest fans and cater to their youngest demographics.

"This is, like, the coolest award show ever," said "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart, accepting the award for favorite movie actress.

Smith, himself a 10-time Blimp winner, started the show with an elaborate, digitally-animated skydive from Nickelodeon's trademark blimp. Smith was then hoisted from the rafters to the stage of the Galen Center at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where thousands of glow-stick waving fans cheered him—including first lady Michelle Obama.

Obama later presented "the big help" award for charity work to Taylor Swift. Upon receiving the award, the pop star said, "I am freaking out."

Nickelodeon introduces many kid-friendly quirks to the usual award show festivities. It rolls out an orange carpet, rather than a red one, and envelopes are the last way winners are announced. Saturday night's choices came by way of a sword eater, a statue impersonator and giant heads held aloft from the crowd.

Winners are chosen from voting online. Selena Gomez won for both favorite TV actress and female singer. Adam Sandler took home the award for favorite movie actor. And Katy Perry, shortly after performing, was given the award for favorite voice in an animated movie for "Smurfs."

"The only reason why I'm still here today—and remember this—is because I've never grown up!" Perry told the young audience.

More than 7.3 million watched last year's awards. This year, Nickelodeon badly needs the KCAs to continue such a success. In March, for the first time, the Disney Channel beat out Nickelodeon in average total daily viewers—a title Nickelodeon had held every month since 1995.

Nickelodeon's own series "Victorious" won best TV show. Jake Short, star of the Disney Channel's "A.N.T. Farm," won best TV actor.

But the most ceremonious moment of the KCAs is the slimey finale. The honor—which Smith said had been chosen by online votes—went to Bieber, who made a surprise appearance late in the show. Smith clutched Bieber as fountains of slime poured out across the stage, while Obama—splattered by a few drops—danced in the seats.

# Keith Olbermann ousted from Current TV talk show

AP

In this May 3, 2012 file photo, Keith Olbermann poses at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley, Calif.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Keith Olbermann is looking for a new job after less than a year as a talk show host at Current TV.

The left-leaning cable network announced just hours before airtime on Friday that Olbermann's show "Countdown" would be replaced with a new program called "Viewpoint" hosted by former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, beginning that night.

The sometimes volatile Olbermann came to Current in June as the centerpiece of its new prime-time initiative after a stormy eight-year stint at MSNBC— his second at that network- followed by his abrupt departure in January 2011.

Shortly after, Current announced his hiring— reportedly with a five-year, $50-million contract— as the start of an effort to transform the network's prime-time slate into progressive talk. His official title was chief news officer, charged with providing editorial guidance for all of the network's political news, commentary and current events programming.

In a statement, Current TV founders Al Gore and Joel Hyatt said the network was "founded on the values of respect, openness, collegiality, and loyalty to our viewers. Unfortunately these values are no longer reflected in our relationship with Keith Olbermann and we have ended it."

They offered no details, but it is known that the temperamental Olbermann repeatedly clashed with his employers. During the primary season he declined to host certain hours of election coverage and has missed a number of regular broadcasts, as well as complaining about technical problems he said undermined his show.

Current considered some of those missed shows to be in "serial, material breach of his contract," terming them "unauthorized absences," according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because that person wasn't authorized to discuss details of Olbermann's dismissal.

"We are confident that our viewers will be able to count on Gov. Spitzer to deliver critical information on a daily basis," Gore and Hyatt said in their "open letter" to viewers.

In a statement posted online, Olbermann countered that "the claims against me implied in Current's statement are untrue and will be proved so in the legal actions I will be filing against them presently."

He said he had been attempting "for more than a year" to resolve his differences with Gore and Hyatt internally, "while I've not been publicizing my complaints." Instead of "investing in a quality news program," he said, his bosses "thought it was more economical to try to get out of my contract."

He called his decision to join Current "a sincere and well-intentioned gesture on my part, but in retrospect a foolish one."

The rupture between Olbermann and his bosses echoed Olbermann's past employment history. At NBC there was ongoing friction between the brash host and his bosses, just as there had been at earlier jobs as far back as Olbermann's star-making, often tumultuous turn as a "SportsCenter" anchor at ESPN in the 1990s.

Just weeks before his exit from MSNBC, Olbermann was nearly fired but instead was suspended for two days without pay for violating an NBC News policy by donating to three political campaigns.

At the heart of his grievance with MSNBC, as he later explained it, was the media consolidation that he felt threatened his independence on the air.

In January 2011, Comcast Corp., the giant cable operator, acquired a controlling stake in Olbermann's already huge employer, NBCUniversal.

The night of Jan. 21, Olbermann told his viewers he was leaving. He said, a bit cryptically, that "there were many occasions, particularly in the last two and a half years, where all that surrounded the show— but never the show itself— was just too much for me."

After that, Current, the privately held network co-founded in 2005 by former Vice President Gore and Joel Hyatt, seemed the perfect fit: It is an independent media outlet.

"Nothing is more vital to my concept of a free media than news that is produced independent of corporate interference," Olbermann said at the announcement of his coming to Current.

Current was then beginning its effort to redefine itself after ditching its original concept as the go-to site for viewer-generated short videos.

Since "Countdown" premiered, Current has fleshed out its prime-time lineup of liberals with "The Young Turks," hosted by Cenk Uygur, and "The War Room" with former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

This week, it introduced a six-hour morning talk block, with live simulcasts of the radio programs "The Bill Press Show" and "The Stephanie Miller Show."

# Car accident shelves Sinise for Martinsville visit

**MARTINSVILLE, Va.** (AP)—Officials with the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation say actor Gary Sinise has postponed a benefit concert by his Lt. Dan Band in Martinsville after being involved in a car accident as a passenger.

Sinise was scheduled to perform in the concert at Martinsville High School on Saturday night. The concert is a fundraiser for Cpl. J.B. Kerns, a triple-amputee, and will be held at a date to be determined, the organizers say.

John Hodge, spokesman for the foundation, says Sinise was not seriously injured in the accident.

No other details were immediately available.

# Jerry Lee Lewis weds for 7th time in Mississippi

AP

In this Oct. 30, 2009 file photo, Jerry Lee Lewis performs at the 25th Anniversary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame concert at Madison Square Garden in New York.

**JACKSON, Miss.** (AP)—Rock `n' roll legend Jerry Lee Lewis has married for a seventh time in Mississippi, and the new bride is his cousin's ex-wife.

Judith Ann Coghlan Lewis, 62, worked several years as Lewis' caretaker at his home in Nesbit, Miss., just south of Memphis—a job she said she was sent to do by her then-husband and one of Lewis' ex-wives, who were brother and sister.

She said she and the 76-year-old Lewis, also known as "The Killer," never intended to fall in love. It just happened.

She said she married for love, not for money.

"To the people that think there's never going to be someone out there for them to love, just wait until they're in their 60s and 70s," the new Mrs. Lewis told The Associated Press on Friday. "It's better than ever."

The Adams County circuit clerk's office said the marriage license shows the couple was married March 9 in Natchez, Miss. Lewis is famous for top hits like "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On."

The bride was previously married to one of Lewis' cousins, Rusty Brown. They divorced in 2010.

Rusty's older sister, Myra Gale Brown, married Lewis in 1957 when she was 13 and was his third wife. That marriage caused shockwaves for Lewis' career.

Lewis' sixth marriage ended in 2004 when he divorced Kerrie McCarver after 20 years together.

Judith Lewis said the wedding was small. The only guests were her sister and husband, and Lewis' sister and husband.

Jerry Lee Lewis and his new wife both grew up with parents who were sharecroppers and moved often, she said. He's from the small Louisiana town of Ferriday, which is just across the Mississippi River from Natchez; she's from the rural Mississippi town of Benoit.

The new Mrs. Lewis, who previously worked as a model and flight attendant, said she and her husband plan to record a gospel album together.

In 2010, Lewis announced a book deal with It Books, an imprint of HarperCollins.

Alberto Rojas, director of publicity for It Books, said Friday that the book deal is still on and that the memoir will be released in 2013.

# Warren Stevens, 'Forbidden Planet' actor, has died

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Actor Warren Stevens, whose most memorable role was his portrayal of "Doc" Ostrow in the 1956 sci-fi movie "Forbidden Planet," has died in Los Angeles at 92.

Publicist Dale Olson says Stevens died Tuesday of respiratory failure complicated by lung disease at his Sherman Oaks home.

Stevens's career in stage, film and television spanned 60 years. He co-starred with Lou Diamond Phillips, Ernest Borgnine and Lee Majors in the 2004 western movie "The Trail to Hope Rose" on The Hallmark Channel.

His first role was a bit part in "The Frogmen" in 1951.

Besides "Forbidden Planet," he had a supporting role in 1954's "The Barefoot Contessa" with Humphrey Bogart.

Stevens was later a familiar face on TV, with guest appearances on such shows as "Bonanza," "Star Trek" and "Combat."

# Whitney Houston memorabilia auctioned in LA

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—A bustier worn on stage by Whitney Houston fetched $18,750 at an auction Saturday in Beverly Hills of memorabilia from the late pop star's career.

The sale of 13 items brought in a total of $80,187 from bidders in the gallery, on the phone and online, according to celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien.

A grey velvet gown the singer wore to music mogul Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party in 1996 went for $11,250.

Pearl drop earrings worn by Houston in "The Bodyguard" sold for $2,812, while a vest she sported in the film commanded $3,437.

This undated photo provided by Julien's Auctions shows a bustier worn on stage by Whitney Houston which fetched $18,750 at an auction in Beverly Hills of memorabilia from the late pop star's career on Saturday, March 31, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Other items included a plum velvet dress, which brought $7,500, and a black and gold pants outfit that fetched $2,125.

Interest in collectibles related to Houston has skyrocketed since her death Feb. 11, Julien said. Most of the items sold Saturday as part of the Hollywood Legends series were provided by the Grammy winner's friends and family in the weeks since she died, he said

"What we have now is all we're going to have from Whitney Houston," he said. "That makes her memorabilia sought after by high end collectors and fans."

More items, including some 30 dresses worn by Houston, will be auctioned off in June as part of Julien's Music Icons series.

Houston drowned in a bathtub at a Beverly Hills hotel on the eve of the Grammy Awards.

# Jackie Mason companion arrested on assault charge

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Police say a woman who accused comedian Jackie Mason of roughing her up during a domestic dispute has been arrested on an assault charge stemming from the incident.

Police said Saturday that Mason's 48-year-old "companion" scratched and bruised his arm at around 6:30 a.m. Friday as he attempted to call a doorman to have her removed from his Upper East Side apartment.

Initially, police said the woman had reported being roughed up by the comedian, who's known for one-man shows on Broadway like "Politically Incorrect." Mason hasn't been charged.

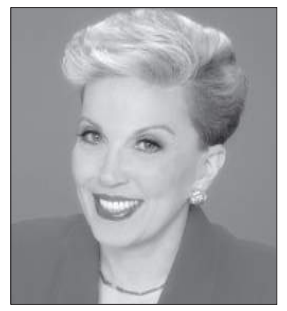
It wasn't immediately clear if the woman had a lawyer. A phone number listed under her name wasn't in service.

AP

In this Aug 28, 2002, comic Jackie Mason addresses the media at a comedy club in Chicago.

# Woman who is happily single hesitates before marrying again

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE




**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a woman in my early 30s. When I was a teenager, boys never looked my way, but since my early 20s nearly every guy I've had friendly contact with has fallen in love with me. I have been proposed to six times.

I was married twice and hated it both times. I have been single for a few years and love it. I have mostly avoided men during this time because I didn't know if any man would want to just casually date me.

I started dating again about six months ago and have been seeing a man who is fantastic. He's the kind of man I have been looking for—kind, even-tempered, well-spoken, etc. He has hinted at marriage, and I'm terrified because I'm afraid that I will "lose" myself. I enjoy my life the way it is, but I'm worried that eventually I will want a partnership, and this would be the man for me.

The idea of going to the next level makes me want to end the relationship. I'm afraid if I can't commit to this man, certainly no other man would have a chance. How do I know if I'm better off single where things are good, or take a chance on another marriage where things may not turn out so well? Is marriage for everyone?

HAPPILY SINGLE ... FOR NOW

**DEAR HAPPILY SINGLE ... FOR NOW: Because of the number of Americans who are divorced or living together without marriage, I would have to say no, marriage isn't for everyone. But when you get it right and have built a strong, loving, mutually respectful partnership, nothing can beat it.**

**Have you learned from the failure of your two marriages? If so, then you have matured from the experience. If you're planning to have children, it is to their advantage to live in a two-parent household.**

**That said, if you truly feel you are happier being single, then single you should remain because there are no guarantees that a marriage will be successful. Marriage can only be as strong and lasting as the couple entering into it are determined it will be. And that takes love, understanding, empathy and willingness to compromise.**

**DEAR ABBY:** Our daughter, "Gabi," is 15—almost 16. She's active and healthy, but for the past few years she has been putting on weight. She's 5-6, weighs more than 160 pounds and has a curvy, feminine body. Despite the fact that my wife and I are both thin, my wife will not encourage her to watch her weight. Actually, she's supportive of our daughter's increasing size. She told me, "Gabi can gain up to 25 more pounds and, combined with her height, be a pretty plus-size."

My wife has always been thin. As a teen she was late to develop her figure. She keeps buying Gabi new clothes as her weight goes up. The styles are too tight, overly revealing and draw attention to the rolls of fat.

I'm not trying to force my daughter into a model's size, but I am concerned about her health. This problem would be easier to manage now than attempting to lose the weight in the future. Please help me present the importance of being proactive with Gabi in this difficult time of maturity.

CARING, SUPPORTIVE DAD

**DEAR DAD: The most qualified person to do that would be your family physician, or Gabi's pediatrician if she has one. It's common knowledge that there is an obesity epidemic in this country, and if your daughter continues to pack on the pounds, she could be at risk for serious health problems. Your wife may be going to the opposite extreme in trying not to make your daughter self-conscious about her weight. I agree with you that this is a subject that is better addressed now than later, so schedule a consultation.**

---

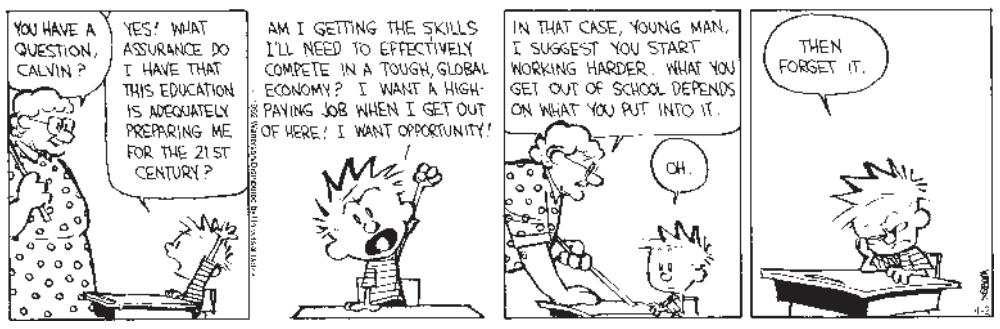
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CALVIN?
YES! WHAT ASSURANCE DO I HAVE THAT THIS EDUCATION IS ADEQUATELY PREPARING ME FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?
AM I GETTING THE SKILLS I'LL NEED TO EFFECTIVELY COMPETE IN A TOUGH, GLOBAL ECONOMY? I WANT A HIGH-PAYING JOB WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE! I WANT OPPORTUNITY!
IN THAT CASE, YOUNG MAN, I SUGGEST YOU START WORKING HARDER. WHAT YOU GET OUT OF SCHOOL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT.
OH.
THEN FORGET IT.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JIM DAVIS 4-2
HEY!
SMASH!
I LIKED THAT RINGTONE!
TRUST ME. THE WORLD IS NOW A BETTER PLACE
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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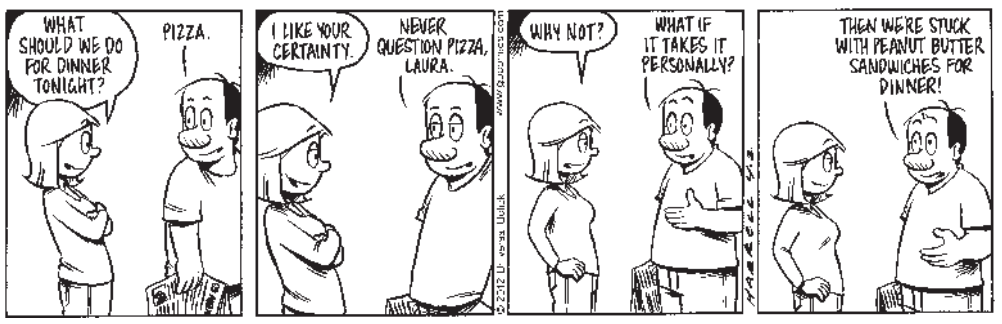
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR DINNER TONIGHT?
PIZZA.
I LIKE YOUR CERTAINTY.
NEVER QUESTION PIZZA, LAURA.
WHY NOT?
WHAT IF IT TAKES IT PERSONALLY?
THEN WE'RE STUCK WITH PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES FOR DINNER!

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE EASTERN CONCEPT OF YIN AND YANG STATES THAT OPPOSITES EXIST IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER.
HOW SO?
THE THINNER OUR TV GETS, THE FATTER YOU GET.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Spaces
5 Slight touch
8 South American country
12 Geometric multiplication
13 Individual
14 Ostriches' kin
15 Willing, old-style
16 Bowling variation
18 Wool provider from 8-Across
20 Examiner
21 — -tat-tat
23 Set of parts and tools
24 Anarchist's belief
28 Pinches
31 Coach Parseghian
32 Choral composition
34 Actress Vardalos
35 Poet
37 About 78 percent of our atmosphere
39 Melody
41 Bar
42 Confesses
45 Hang around
49 Early bird's opposite?
51 Change
52 Hint
53 Island neckwear
54 Great Lake
55 Watches
56 And so on (Abbr.)
57 Half the offspring

**DOWN**
1 Festive party
2 Seed covering
3 Chick's sound
4 Jungle expedition
5 Philanthropic gift
6 Blackbird
7 Crooked
8 Stomach enzyme
9 Sending out
10 Mysterious letter
11 Cold War country (Abbr.)
17 "A mouse!"
19 Serene
22 Moving about
24 Arrest
25 A Gershwin
26 Lecture
27 Made of iron, e.g.
29 Baked dessert
30 — Francisco
33 Threesome
36 Plates
38 Martini garnishes
40 Trench
42 Formerly
43 Crafty
44 Staff
46 Poi source
47 Ireland
48 Deli loaves
50 Drenched

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

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| ■ | A | D | L | I | B | ■ | O | S | A | G | E | S |
| O | N | E | I | D | A | ■ | P | A | L | A | C | E |
| A | T | I | A | S | T | ■ | F | L | I | S | H | A |
| K | I | L | N | ■ | H | A | N | S | ■ | P | O | T |
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| E | X | T | R | A | O | R | D | I | N | A | R | Y |
| M | E | R | E | ■ | M | A | J | A | ■ | L | E | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | O | P | T | ■ | M | U | M | S | ■ | ■ |
| C | E | L | ■ | E | A | S | T | ■ | H | A | S | H |
| R | U | L | I | N | G | ■ | A | P | A | C | H | E |
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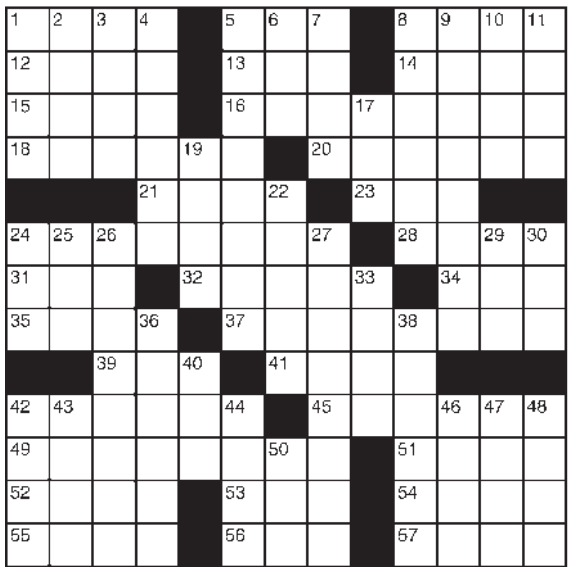
| W | O | H | K | E | D | ■ | I | H | E | Y | S | ■ |

Saturday's answer 4-2



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Michael Fassbender, 35; Christopher Meloni, 51; Emmylou Harris, 65; Linda Hunt, 67.

**Happy Birthday**: Positive action will bring good results. Get rid of limitations by addressing whatever or whoever is holding you back. Show your strengths and you will be taken seriously and be given a chance to increase your earning potential and improve your lifestyle. Remember to play as hard as you work. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 24, 33, 35, 45.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): People will gravitate toward you if you are charming and fun to be with. There's no room for negativity if you want to get ahead. A steady pace and a smile on your face will bring you the highest returns. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Do whatever it takes to enhance what you have to offer personally and professionally. Pick up additional skills or network with people you feel can contribute to your advancement. Take action now and you'll improve your future. ✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Overt action will cause tension. Keep things simple if you want to ensure that you don't lose financially, contractually or emotionally. Don't allow a colleague or peer to make your life miserable. Use your head and plan your strategy. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Discuss your plans quietly. Using force will backfire. Demonstrating your creativity will evoke a new respect from others. Your philosophy is changing, and what you project will attract attention. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mix things up a bit. Get involved in something that promotes meeting new people and that can result in good fortune. You will learn something very valuable if you are exposed to unique experiences, different cultures or unfamiliar surroundings. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The personal changes you make now will help you develop a new approach to something you've wanted to pursue for some time. Good fortune can be yours if you are open and receptive to what someone unusual contributes. A partnership will lead to success. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): What you put out, you will get back. This give-and-take day requires compassion and understanding. Monetary handouts aren't applicable; honest, hands-on hard work will suffice. Sincerity will enhance your reputation and highlight your skills. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid making a decision based on emotion. Letting your opinions be tainted by someone trying to win favors or twist your words to suit a situation you shouldn't get involved in will cause you to miss out on a personal interest you should pursue. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A moneymaking opportunity is apparent. Readjust your current living situation to better suit your needs and you can lower your overhead. Utilizing your talents to the fullest will ensure that you can take care of your finances as well. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Update current contractual agreements. Refinance or invest in something you feel will improve your future position. Love is on the rise, and socializing will invite new romantic opportunities. Spending quality time with your current lover will secure your relationship. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be tempted to overreact, overindulge or take on too much if an emotional situation crops up. Do whatever it takes to keep the peace and please the people you love. Use your head when it comes to making a final decision. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Favors will be granted if you use charm to get your way. Love is on the rise, and traveling, networking and getting out with friends will lead to a romantic encounter. A job well done will bring you an unexpected bonus. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are aggressive, confident and eager to excel. You are an instigator.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | 3 | | | | 2 |
| | 5 | | 9 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | 6 | 5 | 1 | | | |
| | 4 | 9 | 7 | | | 8 | | |
| 1 | | 7 | | 4 | | 9 | | 3 |
| | | 2 | | | 3 | 4 | 7 | |
| | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | 9 |
| | | | | | 7 | | 1 | |
| 4 | | | | 6 | | 5 | | |

Difficulty Level ★ 4/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Last Saturday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/31

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**DOG NAMES** Solution: 5 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | C | Y | H | S | R | T | H | S | C | R | A | P | P | Y |
| E | A | A | E | C | U | O | R | S | E | L | H | Y | F | R |
| S | P | S | S | L | O | E | M | I | C | U | E | A | D | E |
| S | T | Y | P | P | R | O | Z | E | G | O | N | G | I | T |
| E | A | P | O | E | E | A | P | O | O | G | O | P | N | X |
| L | I | O | M | G | R | R | H | Z | S | Y | E | B | O | A |
| U | N | O | U | F | N | A | E | N | B | P | E | R | Y | B |
| C | H | N | T | T | M | I | E | A | P | A | A | R | N | E |
| R | A | S | T | L | Z | V | B | E | S | Z | I | N | I | Y |
| E | O | P | E | Z | O | R | R | T | Ⓔ | P | A | G | K | R |
| H | A | T | O | H | E | E | R | R | Ⓛ | B | A | C | O | Y |
| C | O | L | T | L | V | O | A | U | Ⓜ | X | O | T | K | R |
| T | H | E | L | O | L | C | T | M | Ⓞ | R | A | O | S | A |
| U | E | I | R | E | S | O | C | O | M | G | Y | M | T | Y |
| B | K | G | P | O | B | Y | B | O | T | E | C | I | D | S |

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Angel, Apollo, Arne, Baby, Baxter, Beast, Beethoven, Bella, Bingo, Boots, Butch, Captain, Casper, Chip, Dice, Dino, Elmo, Emma, Fang, Frazier, Gator, Grover, Hamlet, Harley, Hercules, Homer, Hugo, Igor, Jasper, Jesse, Killer, Max, Mutt, Niko, Oreo, Oscar, Otto, Ozzie, Patsy, Pepper, Pluto, Pooch, Pooh, Rocky, Romeo, Scooby, Scrappy, Snoopy, Spanky, Toby, Toto, Trigger, Zack, Zeus, Zooey

**Last Saturday's Answer: Western**

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 (each $8.00, add $3.00 for postage) in Universal Uclick's Shopping Cart, go to the Puzzle Archive at puzzles.com. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-5403. Order online at puzzles.com. (Orders ship in 4 to 6 weeks. Inquiries: 816-581-7613.)

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WHATZIT Solution: Diamond ring

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P.O. Box 506182
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 235-3341

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: | ) | **FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0159** |
| MICHAEL J. GIODA, Petitioner | ) | **NOTICE OF HEARING** |

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 12, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court


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JVA No. 12-009

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Closing Date: Friday, April 13, 2012

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**Position(s):** Two (2).
**Contract:** Not contracted.

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| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
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| • 5-Liner | $24 | $39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $24 | $42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $36 | $57 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Are you ready to Ace it?
church court
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
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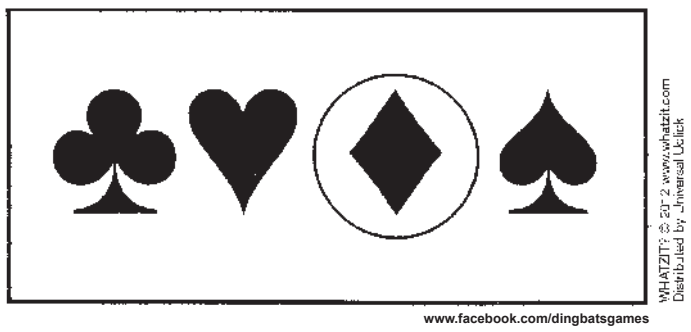


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# Big comeback leads KU to win over Ohio St, 64-62

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—The tightrope walk rocks on for the Jayhawks.

Kansas, the underrated, undervalued team that's been teetering on the edge of the tournament since before it even began, is now one of the last two left.

Tyshawn Taylor made two big free throws late, and All-American Thomas Robinson finished with 19 points and eight rebounds Saturday night to lift the Jayhawks to a come-from-behind 64-62 win over Ohio State in the Final Four—a game Kansas led for a grand total of 3 minutes, 48 seconds.

After scoring the game's first bucket, Kansas didn't lead again until Travis Releford made two free throws with 2:48 left. That lasted for 11 seconds, but the Jayhawks (32-6), who trailed by as many as 13, overcame another deficit and finally held on against the Buckeyes (31-8).

"It's just been our thing all year, coming back," Robinson said. "I don't like doing it, but for some reason my team is pretty good when we're down."

More than pretty good. Kansas is one more magic act from bringing its second title in five years back to Allen Fieldhouse. It might take exactly that. The opponent is Kentucky, the big-time favorite to win it all, and a 69-61 winner over Louisville in the evening's first semifinal. The Wildcats are an early 6.5-point favorite.

"It's a dream to play the best team in the country, up `til now, hands down, the most consistent," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It's a thrill. And I think it's even more of a thrill for us, because I don't think anybody thought we could get here."

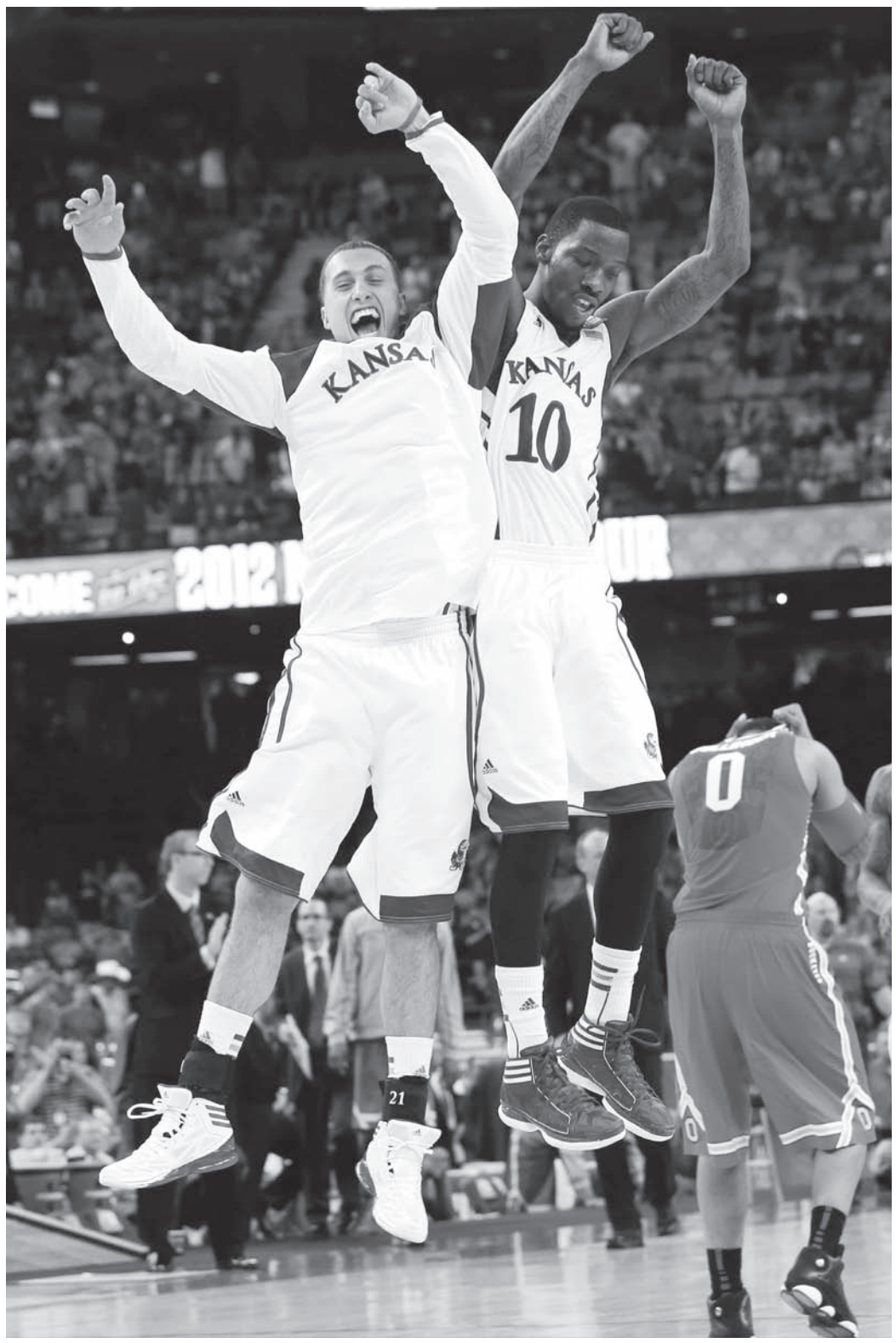
Taylor's two free throws with 8.3 seconds left gave Kansas a 64-61 lead, matching its biggest of the game. The Jayhawks intentionally fouled Aaron Craft with 2.9 seconds left. Craft made the first, then quickly clanked the second one off the front of the rim but was called for a lane violation.

Kansas dribbled out the clock and celebrated a win that played out sort of the way the whole season has in Lawrence.

With most of the experienced players from last year gone, Self at times wondered if this team was even tournament material. The Jayhawks still won the Big 12 title—for the eighth straight time—but came into the tournament as what some felt was an underrated No. 2 seed.

They played down to their billing in their second game, against Purdue, barely escaping with a 63-60 win that looked a lot like this game in the Superdome.

"It was two different games," Self said of the latest escape act. "They dominated us the first half. We were playing in quicksand it looked like. And the light came on. We were able to play through our bigs; we were able to get out and run, but the biggest thing is we got stops."



AP

Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor (10) celebrates with Kansas guard Christian Garrett at the end of an NCAA Final Four semifinal college basketball tournament game against Ohio State Saturday, March 31, 2012, in New Orleans. Kansas won, 64-62.

Kansas' next test will feature a coaching rematch between Self and John Calipari, who was with Memphis in 2008 when the Tigers missed four free throws down the stretch and blew a nine-point lead in an overtime loss to Mario Chalmers and the Jayhawks.

A big comeback. Sound familiar? This year's Jayhawks also overcame a 19-point deficit to win their final regular-season meeting against Missouri - their long-time, SEC-bound archrival.

"It's a 40-minute game," Self said. "There's no 13-point plays. You have to grind it and get one stop at a time."

This was a heartbreaker for the Buckeyes, who came in as co-Big Ten champions and a slight favorite in a game—a rematch of a 78-67 Kansas win back in December when Ohio State's All-American, Jared Sullinger, was not available.

Sullinger was there a-plenty Saturday night, but he struggled. He finished with 11 points on 5-for-19 shooting, no fewer than three of them blocked by Jeff Withey, the Kansas center who finished with seven swats. Sullinger also had 11 rebounds and 3 blocks, but the sophomore who gave up NBA lottery money to return and win a championship will go without for at least another year.

When the buzzer sounded, he plopped at midcourt, clearly pooped—and maybe wondering how his team let this game slip away.

"These guys got tears in their eyes, blank stares on their faces," Sullinger said. "It's tough on me."

Ohio State-Kansas was billed as "The Other Game" of this Final Four—garnering much less ink than the Kentucky-Louisville blood feud that preceded it - and started off looking like every bit the undercard.

The Buckeyes built an early 13-point lead on the strength of the shooting of William Buford, who came out of a 13-for-44 tournament slump to lead the Buckeyes with 19 points on 6 for 10 from the floor. Kansas trailed 34-25 at the half and only a steal and layup before the buzzer prevented the Jayhawks from a season-low.

Things changed when Ohio State came out and promptly missed its first 10 shots from the field, while Deshaun Thomas—the Ohio State big man in charge of shutting down Robinson—headed to the bench with his third foul.

That opened things up for KU: A couple easy layups for Robinson and a kick-out to Elijah Johnson for a 3-pointer were part of a 13-4 run to open the half. It tied the game at 38 and set up for a nip-and-tuck finish between these No. 2 seeds, each of which were in the hunt for top seeding all the way up to Selection Sunday.

Releford finished with 15 points and six rebounds for the Jayhawks. Johnson had 13 points and 10 boards. Taylor finished with 10 points and nine assists—not bad considering the time Craft spent glued to him much of the night.

Craft said he thought a quick brick and a rebound on the final free throw was his best chance to save the game. There wasn't much of an argument after he got called for the lane violation, however.

"There is no explanation," Craft said. "Apparently I crossed before it hit the rim. I just knew I had to miss it. I thought that would be the best way for us to get the ball back."

That end-game was set up when Releford made two free throws with 1:37 left to put KU ahead 60-59. Buford tried to take the ball to the basket on the next possession, but Withey swatted it away. Johnson followed with a layup—hardly as dramatic as his game-winner against Purdue, but enough for a three-point lead, which seemed like a million for the Jayhawks in this one.

Not that the Jayhawks need a big lead—or any lead.

"I think we're trying to make it fun for y'all," Robinson said. "Seriously, I wish it would stop. I mean, I'd feel better at the end.

## *Kentucky off to title game, beats Louisville, 69-61*

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Bragging rights in the Bluegrass State are mighty nice.

Kentucky has its sights set higher.

Much higher.

Anthony Davis and top-seeded Kentucky are right where they planned to be all along, playing for the national title after finally putting away pesky Louisville 69-61 in the Final Four on Saturday night.

"I have a team that's had teams come at them all year," coach John Calipari said, "and they responded again today."

It will be Kentucky's first appearance in the title game since winning a seventh NCAA crown back in 1998 and it gives Calipari another shot at the championship that has eluded him. The Wildcats (37-2) will face No. 2 seed Kansas, a 64-62 winner over Ohio State in the second semifinal.

After the game, thousands of fans swarmed into the streets near the University of Kentucky campus, overturning cars and lighting couches ablaze. Riot police used pepper spray and 150 officers deployed on the streets at one point to quell what Lexington police spokeswoman Sherelle Roberts called "a very dangerous situation with the fires and the violence" that dragged on for hours.

Lexington City spokeswoman Susan Straub said police made fewer than 10 arrests, and a few injuries were reported.

As the final seconds ticked down in New Orleans, Davis pointed to the court and screamed twice, "This is my stage!"

Yes, yes, it is.

With a star-studded roster that includes at least three, maybe as many as five NBA lottery picks, Kentucky was the top seed in the tournament and the heavy favorite to cut down the nets when the whole tournament was done. And Calipari wouldn't let his young players consider anything else, saying repeatedly this was "just another game."

But playing in-state rival Louisville (30-10) is never just that, and the Cardinals made Kentucky work deep into the second half to grind this victory out.

Louisville outrebounded Kentucky 40-33, including a whopping 19-6 advantage on the offensive glass - the sole reason the Cardinals were able to make a game of this.

"To tell you the truth, I haven't always liked some of the Kentucky teams. I'm not going to lie to you," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino, who counts as something of an expert after spending eight years in Lexington and the last 11 with the Cardinals. "But I really like this team a lot because of their attitude and the way they play.

"I'll certainly be rooting for them hard to bring the trophy back to Kentucky. ... They're a great group of guys, doing a tremendous job."

So tremendous it led to a thawing, however briefly, in the frosty relationship between Calipari and Pitino. When the two shook hands after the game, Pitino congratulated Calipari and told him he'd be rooting for the Wildcats on Monday night.

"I think that's neat," Calipari said. "When I was at UMass, I can remember hugging him and telling him, `I'm happy for you and I really want you to win the national title.' He did the same to me tonight, so I think it's kind of neat."

Calipari had taken another phenom-laden roster to the Final Four last year, only to see them come unglued against eventual national champion Connecticut. The Wildcats said all week they weren't going to let the same thing happen this time, and it showed in their workmanlike effort. No matter how close Louisville got, the Cardinals were never able to control the game. When they made a run, Kentucky found a way to stop it. When one of the Wildcats ran into foul trouble, the others picked him up.

Kentucky played so hard Davis went flying off the court twice, sailing all the way onto media row once.

"They made runs, and we made our runs. That's what coach always says," said Terrence Jones, who finished with six points and seven rebounds. "We never get rattled."

# Kobe rallies Lakers past Hornets

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Kobe Bryant hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 20 seconds left, after starting the game with 15 straight misses, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied to beat the last-place New Orleans Hornets 88-85 on Saturday.

It was just the third field goal of the game for Bryant, who finished with 11 points on 3 of 21 shooting as the Lakers ended a two-game skid at home. Pau Gasol had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Ramon Sessions had 10 points and 10 assists.

Bryant was 0 for 7 on 3-pointers before making his only one. He had five assists, three rebounds and four fouls in 39 minutes.

Jarrett Jack had 18 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, but he missed a go-ahead bank shot with 4.9 seconds left.

### Sixers 95, Hawks 90

In Philadelphia, Elton Brand scored 13 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter to rally Philadelphia past Atlanta.

Andre Iguodala scored 18, and Brand had 10 rebounds to go with his 10-for-12 shooting.

Coming off a 21-point loss to lowly Washington on Friday that knocked them out of first place in the Atlantic Division and down to No. 7 in the Eastern Conference, the Sixers earned a hard-fought win against a tea

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 34 points and Joe Johnson had 15. The Hawks have lost three of four after winning four straight.

The 76ers pulled within a half-game of Boston in the Atlantic.

### Knicks 91, Cavaliers 75

In New York, JR Smith scored 20 points, Carmelo Anthony had 19, and New York shook off bad Jeremy Lin injury news to beat Cleveland.

Already without Amare Stoudemire, the Knicks announced before the game that Lin would have surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee and could miss six weeks. That leaves them without their second- and third-leading scorers as they try to hold onto a playoff spot.

But they showed they still may have enough. Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the eighth-place Knicks, who bounced back from a loss in Atlanta on Friday to win for the ninth time in 11 games. They have won seven in a row at home.

Antawn Jamison scored 13 for the Cavaliers, who played without injured rookie Kyrie Irving.

### Pistons 110, Bobcats 107, OT

In Michigan, Will Bynum's 3-pointer with 15.7 seconds left in regulation sent the game into overtime, and Detroit went on to edge Charlotte.

The Bobcats led 93-85 with under 2:00 remaining before Detroit's Brandon Knight made a pair of 3-pointers and Bynum sank his tying shot from the left wing. Gerald Henderson had a great chance to win it for Charlotte, but his driving bank shot missed in the final seconds.

Jonas Jerebko put the Pistons ahead 105-103 on a tip-in with 50.5 seconds left in overtime, and Detroit led 108-104 before Reggie Williams made a 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left to cut it to one. Tayshaun Prince made two free throws for Detroit, and Charlotte's Byron Mullens and Williams both missed last-ditch 3-pointers.

### Spurs 112, Pacers 103

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 11 rebounds to lead San Antonio to its seventh consecutive win.

Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili added 18 points apiece for the Spurs, who are 8-1 since making a rare plunge into midseason moves by adding forwards Stephen Jackson and Boris Diaw.

Paul George and Danny Granger each scored 18 for Indiana. The Pacers have lost two of three while trying to break out of the jammed East playoff picture and secure some home-court edge.

The Spurs aren't budging in the standings, either. They're 2 1/2 games behind first-place Oklahoma City and remain stuck behind the similarly streaking Thunder.

### Grizzlies 99, Bucks 95

In Milwaukee, O.J. Mayo scored a season-high 24 points, and Rudy Gay had 17 points and 10 rebounds to lead Memphis past Milwaukee.

Marc Gasol added 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who are in the midst of playing seven games in nine days. They opened the stretch with a 98-89 loss at Houston on Friday.

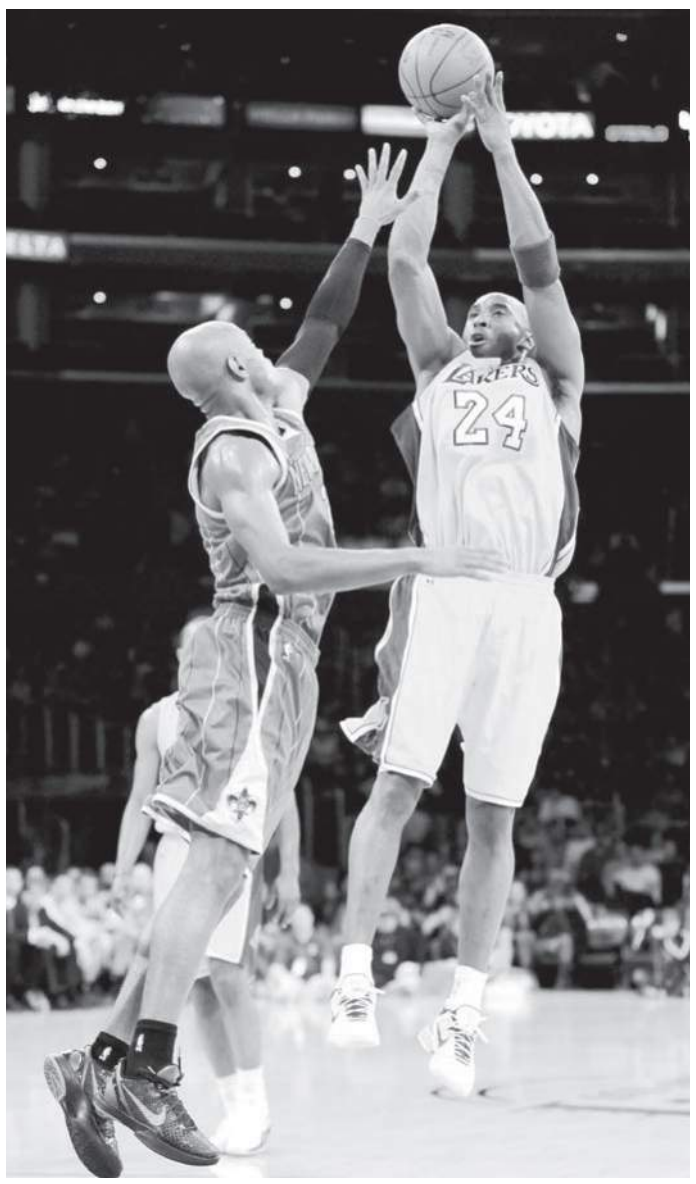
Brandon Jennings scored 24 points on 9-of-18 shooting for Milwaukee.

Ersan Illyasova added 18 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks, who were coming off a 37-point victory at Cleveland on Friday—their largest margin of victory since Feb. 20, 2002.

### Nets 111, Kings 99

In Sacramento, Anthony Morrow made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points to lead New Jersey to its season-high third straight win.

Deron Williams had 19 points, 15 assists and six rebounds for the Nets, who had lost 12 of their previous 13 visits to Sacramento. Gerald Wallace added 18 points, Kris Humphries had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Johan Petro scored 12 points.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) takes a shot over New Orleans Hornets guard Jarrett Jack (2) in the first half of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, March 31, 2012, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 88-85.

The Nets, now 12-16 on the road, are one of two teams—along with New Orleans—to have a better record on the road than at home.

Tyreke Evans scored 23 points for the Kings, who have dropped five of their last six. DeMarcus Cousins had 14 points, Marcus Thornton scored 13 and Isaiah Thomas added 11 points and six assists.

### Clippers 105, Jazz 96

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored 26 points, Blake Griffin added 24 and the Clippers won their fifth in a row for the first time since 2006.

Randy Foye added 17 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds for surging Los Angeles, which has won six straight at home and is a game behind the first-place Lakers in the Pacific Division. They hadn't won five consecutive games since opening the 2006-07 season 5-1.

Al Jefferson led the Jazz with 26 points. Paul Millsap added 18 for Utah, which lost its third in a row after closing within four points in the third quarter.

Paul left the game with a bruised right elbow at 7:37 of the third. He left the bench and returned to the game with 11 minutes left in the fourth.

## Lin-surgery! Knicks guard done for regular season

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Say so long to Linsanity.

Jeremy Lin will miss the rest of the regular season because he needs knee surgery that will sideline him six weeks and could leave the Knicks without their star point guard in the playoffs—if they make it that far.

Lin had an MRI exam this week that revealed a small, chronic meniscus tear and he has elected to have surgery next week in New York.

With the regular season ending April 26, the biggest story in basketball this season is done unless the Knicks make a deep postseason run.

Speaking slowly during a pregame press conference, Lin was unable to hide his disappointment with the decision that was reached earlier Saturday after a painful workout.

"It (stinks) not being able to be out there with the team," he said.

Upcoming: Lin-surgery.

He was barely holding on to a place in the NBA back in February. Now, after the back-to-back Sports Illustrated covers and popularity around the world, and now it's over.

"If this was done very early in the year, obviously … I don't know where my career would be. I could be, would be definitely without a job and probably fighting for a summer league spot," Lin said. "But having said that, this happening now hurts just as much, because all the players, we really put our heart and souls into the team and into season, and to not be there when it really matters most is hard."

The Knicks will continue to turn to Baron Davis in place of Lin, the undrafted Harvard alum who became the starter in February and turned in a series of brilliant performances, kicking off a phenomenon that was called Linsanity.

Lin is averaging 14.1 points and 6.1 assists, but the numbers only tell a small part of the story.

The Knicks were under .500 and looking like a mess when Lin was given a chance to play extended minutes at point guard for then-coach Mike D'Antoni on Feb. 4 against New Jersey.

Lin, the first American-born player of Taiwanese or Chinese descent to play in the NBA, scored 25 points with seven assists in that New York victory, was inserted into the starting lineup two days later against Utah, and took the Knicks on a seven-game winning streak that gained world-wide attention.

The 23-year-old Lin left the Knicks' easy victory over Detroit last Saturday after feeling discomfort, saying afterward he could have returned for the fourth quarter if the game had been close. He took part in shootaround before their game Monday and at first believed he could deal with the pain.

Though the swelling went down, the pain never did. He said he got three or four opinions that all said the same thing, and after testing it again Friday and Saturday, he decided to have the surgery.

"I can't really do much. Can't really cut or jump, so it's pretty clear that I won't be able to help the team unless I get this fixed right now," Lin said before the Knicks played Cleveland.

## Payton, Saints and GM appeal NFL suspensions

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Saints coach Sean Payton is appealing his season-long suspension from the NFL for his role in New Orleans' bounty system. And he's not the only one looking for a little relief from the penalties handed down by Commissioner Roger Goodell.

General manager Mickey Loomis, assistant coach Joe Vitt and the Saints organization each decided to appeal on Friday.

Payton will also ask Goodell for guidance on the parameters of the suspension, which runs through next year's Super Bowl, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the league and the Saints did not announce Payton's plan to appeal.

Saints spokesman Greg Bensel did confirm that Loomis was appealing his eight-game suspension and, separately, the team would challenge its $500,000 fine and loss of second-round draft picks this year and in 2013.

Vitt, suspended for six games, is doing the same. David Cornwell, representing Vitt as head of the NFL Coaches Association, confirmed the decision in an email to the AP.

Goodell last week announced the suspension of Payton, starting Sunday, for his role in connection with New Orleans' bounty system, which offered improper cash bonuses for big hits that either knocked opponents out of games or left them needing help off of the field.

Former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who left the Saints after last season to join the St. Louis Rams, ran the bounty program and has been suspended indefinitely.

The commissioner has said since the unprecedented penalties were announced that the Saints' coach would likely be allowed to continue working as his appeal was resolved. However, he added that the challenge would be expedited, indicating that Payton would not likely be able to add on much work time should his appeal be upheld.

Goodell also said at the NFL owners meetings this week in Florida that Payton could have some contact with the team but did not go into detail, and Payton indicated that he was still a little unclear about that, as well.

With all the uncertainty, Payton is trying to compress as much planning for the 2012 season into whatever time he has left at Saints headquarters this weekend.

The NFL could not immediately provide details on how Payton's decision to file an appeal on Friday would affect the timeline for the process to play out.

"The decision to appeal is for Sean Payton to make and announce as he deems appropriate," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "If there are appeals, the commissioner will arrange for expedited hearings, as he stated at the league meeting."

The results of the appeal could affect whether Bill Parcells comes out of retirement to take over as interim coach while his former offensive assistant and protege is suspended.

Parcells has said he would consider coaching the Saints if asked. At a spring training game in Jupiter, Fla., on Friday, Parcells declined to answer questions about the possibility.

"I know better than that," Parcells said.

# Four-way tie in Senior League's RBI leaders

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces TJ Sablan and Jun Rabaluiman, Kagman Lions' Paul Celis, and Fielders' James Aldan are in a deadlock for the top spot in the Senior League's RBI race with seven apiece.

Also joining the field are the Jets II's Shane Deleon Guerrero (6), Falcons' Frankie Lieto (6), Lions' Dave Matagolai (6), and Jets I's Allan Cabrera (5).

Aldan and current batting leader Aces' Frankie Camacho (0.692) lead the league in triples with three apiece; Falcons-duo Ray Saralu and Frank Lieto and Ricky Rieguul each have a pair of doubles thus far on the year; and the Ol'Aces' Lancaster Secharmedal and Jonah Flores and Lions' Justin Santos have crossed the plate nine times. Frankie Camacho, Frank Lieto and Jets I's Mathew Maeda have scored eight times apiece.

In the home run race, Shane Deleon Guerrero has been credited with three homers while six others each have one.

In the Big League, the Ol'Aces' Jacob Flores and Harry Nakamura have driven in nine runs apiece, while their teammates Rocco Reyes (7) and Leonard Sablan (6) are on the list, too. Sablan has also been granted a pair of home runs, while teammates Lamarc Iguel, Nakamura, and Flores each have one.

The Ol' Aces' Reyes, Keoni Lizama, Fielders' Peter Lieto and Arthur Jebehn and Hustlers' MacGarette Duenas all have two triples under their belts. Nakamura leads the field in doubles with four, ahead of teammate Diego Camacho (2) and Lions' Richard (2) and Ricardo Dela Cruz (2); and Iguel has crossed home a league-best 11 times, however his teammates Diego Camacho (10), Reyes (7) and Lizama (7) are hot in pursuit.

# Island Apparel, Jonny's share lead

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Island Apparel's Oh MG! defeated third-ranked VFW Post 3457's Party Rock (52-38), 9-6, in a road match last Wednesday to tie Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks atop the team standings in the C division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Winter/Summer 2012 Bud Light Dart League

Island Apparel's Oh MG! and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks hold similar 54-36 records after the latter was stunned by seventh-ranked Shooters V2 (37-53), 8-7 last week.

SOS Bar & Grill's Mixblood Shooters II, Jonny's Try Luck, The Sea Bridge 80 Proofers and Ali'I Kamotes led the A, Ladies, Tuesday-B, and Master fields as the SEDA 2012 season continued last week.

In other C division results, Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's DRP (46-44) triumphed over Oceanside's Shooters V1 (45-45), 10-5, at home and Naked Fish's Hafa Mas! (40-50) edged Hole Bar's Hole In One (25-65), 8-7, in a home pairing.

Mixblood II feasted on VFW's bottom feeder Primos (36-66), 14-3, on the road to improve to a 62-40 record. Five games back comes Bammy's Bud Brothers (57-45) who escaped past sister-rival Sabalu (54-48), 9-8, in a home draw, while Bammy's Celebrity (49-53) stunned Naked Fish Bar's Naked Fish Boyz (54-48), 10-7, on the road. SOS'101 Proofers (51-51) defeated Sand's Juvy Predators (47-57), 12-5, at home.

Try Luck downed VFW's second-ranked B-52 Shooters (56-34), 9-6, at home to extend its lead in the Ladies field to 12 games; Try Luck improved a 68-22 card.

Naked Fish's Man-Amigas (56-34) are tied with the B-52's for second place after routing Joe's Daffodils (33-57), 11-4, on the road; 19th Hole's Team Reapers (38-52) barely got away from visiting Daarty Deedz (26-64), 8-7; and Joe's fourth ranked Just Like Dat (47-43) bested Bammy's Momes'I Mei (36-54), 10-5, in a road match.

The 80 Proofers defeated Naked Fish's Dartaholiks, 10-5, on Tuesday to improve to a 58-32 mark, but cling to the top spot by just two games after SOS's Mixblood Shooters III (56-34) roasted Jonny's Dosukebe Boys (40-50), 12-3, at home; Third-ranked Naked Fish's Na'Gupu Too (55-35) torched Good Guys (32-58), 14-1, at Joe's. Jonny's Star Maharot (44-46) defeated Poseidon's K-1 Scorpions, 10-5, at home.

Notables include a High In 120 by 80 Proofers' Rolly Bermiso and a High Out 110 by Star Maharot's Ronald De Ramos.

Ali'I Kamotes toppled VFW's D'Companeros (35-67), 12-5, in a road match to move up to 65-47 card. Second place Bammy's Aces (60-42) trail by a handful after defeating SOS's Destroyers (48-54), 10-7, at home. There is a tie for third place between SOS's All Stars (56-46) and VFW's Maharot Crew (56-46), who survived Bammy's Sabalu Boyz (42-60) and SOS's Mixblood Rookies (46-56), respectively.

# Home Boyz keeps Agingan lead in SBA league

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific's Home Boyz, pictured in this file photo, defeated Crazy 8 ,12-5, in an inter-league home draw at Jonny's Bar & Grill to keep the top ranking in the Agingan division of the SBA league.

Docomo Pacific's Home Boyz out of Poseidon held a four-game lead in the Agingan division of the Saipan Billiards Association' Winter/Summer 2012 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after last week's matches.

The Home Boyz defeated Obyan's Crazy 8 (45-74), 12-5, to improve its overall record to 97-22.

In other results, second-ranked IT&E's Voyagers (93-26) rolled over the 19th Hole Bar's Obyan Titans (51-68), 14-3, at home in Jonny's to remain a threat in the Agingan class, while third placers New Saipan Aluminum's Hustlers (76-43) routed 19th Hole's Poksu (43-76), 15-2, on the road, also in inter-league play.

In the Obyan division, Joe's Steakhouse's Fotten Palau tied Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS and share control in the nine-team field.

Fotten Palau survived Joe's Ocean Warriors (59-60), 9-8, at home for a 61-58 record, the same mark Team SCS holds. SCS bowed to Agingan's IT&E Incredibles (73-46), 4-12.

In other results, Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (57-62) is close behind despite absorbing a 7-10 home loss to Poseidon's Yang Ku (48-71). Notably, The Waterfront's (33-86) self-titled crew went into Bammy's Restaurant & Bar and upset Boom Boom (36-83), 12-5. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

## LASSONDE

*From Page 28*

utes lead in the swim leg in the waters off Pacific Islands. The Australian, who topped the first three races this month, was first out of the water with his 25:16, while Lassonde had 29:26. Allen was already heading to Koblerville for the start of the bike leg, while Lassonde was still at the swim-bike transition area, getting in gear.

Then in the bike leg (from Micro Beach to Bird Island Lookout, Suicide and Banzai cliffs and back), Allen kept his pace and the lead as he went to the bike-run transition area at Micro Beach and timed in at 1:34:24. The Australian was already at Winchell's in Garapan for the run leg when Lassonde completed the bike leg at 1:33:50 (fastest).

For the final leg of the road race, Allen gassed out, admitting that fatigue finally took its toll on him after racing in four events in one month.

"Hats-off to Cedric, he really caught me in the run leg. He was really fast and no matter how hard I tried to push myself harder, the legs were not there," said Allen.

Lassonde's long strides and good running form were evident as he crossed the finish line, with his chest leaning forward and touching the tape. The 35-year-old later admitted that before doing triathlon, he was a member of France's U23 track team and ran in 1,500 races.

The Frenchman added that his victory in Tagaman against the 27-year-old and Top 3 finishes in the XTERRA Tour's Triple Crown made him reconsider his retirement plans.

"I planned on retiring at the end of this year, but after these great races, I am now having second thoughts. I might reconsider and race again next year," said Lassonde, who works as a D.J. when he is not racing.

Joining Lassonde and Allen in the men's Top 6 were Germany's Jens Buder (3:11:09), U.S.' Will Kelsay (3:12:44) and Guam's Gabriel Lombard (3:18:25) and Benjamin Dillon (2:52:46).

## SLACK

*From Page 28*

ished fourth (31:41).

Then in the bike leg, Slack pulled away from the pack, which had Bucher, Wasle, Carey, and some male pros.

"I had to be on my own, while some of the girls stayed and worked together on their way up to Marpi," said Slack, who maintained her about two minutes lead, heading up to the Bird Island Lookout.

Bucher was second, followed by Wasle and they stayed with a small group of male bikers, while Carey was a few second behind the pack. Then on the way down the course and back to the bike-run transition area, Wasle managed to overtake Bucher, while Slack remained in the lead.

Slack finished the bike leg at the 1:45:17 and was already heading out to the run course when Wasle, Bucher, and Carey began entering the American Memorial Park for the transition. Wasle stole the second spot with her 1:42:43 in the bike leg, while Bucher (1:43:12) and Carey (1:45:43) were still in the fight.

In the last leg, Slack gave her all and was already on her final turn at the AMP en route to the finish line, while the rest of her foes were just entering the park's compound.

"When I entered the park, I knew I had a great chance of keeping the lead. It was a good run and the weather was good, "I am glad I am leaving Saipan with a win," said Slack, who went back to Australia to train yesterday.

The United Kingdom triathlete crossed the finish line more than four minutes ahead of Wasle (3:22:54). Wasle had another runner-up finish in Tagaman after placing second to U.S. pro Suzie Snyder last year, but was happy with her result. "I had a good race today, no crash. I am very happy with my result," said Wasle, who had a bad crash in XTERRA Saipan and almost did not finish the race.

Carey managed to finish third with her 3:24:05, passing Bucher near the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose on their way back to Micro Beach.

"We ran together along Beach Road, but when we entered the AMP compound, I pulled away," said Carey.

Bucher ended up in fourth place with her 3:26:01, followed by Japan's Ai Hirano (3:51:19) and Saipan's Dawn Hammermeister (4:04:59).

## ROGOLIFOI

*From Page 28*

right field.

Rogolifoi swung 3-for-4, while winning pitcher Kaipat gave up two earned runs off one hit, six walks, and three hit batsmen with three strikeouts in three and two-thirds innings.

### Ol'Aces 16, Hunters 9

The Ol'Aces maintained a 3-2 lead after three innings and scampered ahead, 8-2, as they started the fourth with five runs off four hits and some errors; AJ Lizama bagged an RBI double and Lancaster Secharmedal made an RBI single.

The Hunters answered with three runs in the bottom frame with a sacrifice fly and a two-RBI double by Jerome Reyes, but the Ol'Aces fired back in the top of the fifth with four runs off three hits and some more costly errors. The Ol'Aces' Jun Rabauliman cracked a two-RBI double.

This time the Hunters only answered with one run and the Ol'Aces one-upped the Hunters once again, four runs to three, in the last inning to secure the win.

The Ol'Aces' Lizama batted 5-for-5 with three RBIs and three runs

### BIG LEAGUE
### Fielders 8, Hunters 4

The Fielders went ahead, 2-1, in the first inning off an RBI triple by RJ Villagomez, who was driven home by Peter Lieto.

The Fielder's Patrick Tenorio tacked on another run in the second with a base hit that scored Ben Lizama, who led off the inning with a triple. The Fielders' Jonah Villagomez cranked a RBI triple and Rey and Nate Guerrero bagged singles as they trotted ahead, 6-1, after three frames.

The Fielders added two more runs in the fourth from a two-run inside the park homer by RJ Villagomez and held the Hunters to three runs in the last two innings.

Winning pitcher Carl Camacho went the distance and gave up three earned runs off eight hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

Patrick Tenorio batted 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs; RJ Villagomez went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs.

### Ol'Aces 8, Hustlers 6

The Ol'Acess broke the ice with a run in the first inning, but the Hustlers pulled ahead, 3-1, in the bottom of the fourth when Brian Camacho blasted a 2-run home run followed by a triple by MacGarette Duenas, who was driven in by Kevin Villagomez.

The Ol'Aces managed to lock it at 3-all in the top of the fifth inning off errors and jumped in front, 8-3, in the sixth from a clutch grand slam by Keoni Lizama; an extra run came from a walk with the bases still loaded.

The Hustlers' Villagomez hammered an in the park home run with two runners on base in effort to ignite a late rally, but the Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura held strong on the mound to secure his win.

Nakamura went the distance and gave up five earned runs off six hits and a walk with eight strikeouts.

Lizama swung 2-for-3 with four RBIs and a run.

# Weekend Sports

# XTERRA winners, Settsu players top list

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Winners in the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship and the 4th Annual Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament were among last week's top performers.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher and Australia's Ben Allen took the women's and men's pro crowns in XTERRA Saipan, while Saipan's Lewie Tenorio, Brian Morris, Dawn Hammermeister, Eileen Escudero, Kaisei Toda, and Robyn Wondrasek ruled their respective age groups. In the relays, Saipan's Bob Ferrer, John Jenkins, and Kento Akimaru reigned supreme in XTERRA Sport, while Victoria Chentsova, Russ Quinn, and Yosh Gabaldon prevailed in the XTERRA Championship course.

In the annual Settsu-Saipan caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the MISO All-Stars claimed the boys' division crown after beating Kagman High School in the finals, 90-58, while the visiting Settsu cagebelles won over the MHS Lady Dolphins, 69-38.

The boys champion team was composed of Tinian High School's Marc Babauta, Darius Pettis, and Develle Maui, Saipan Southern High School's Bryl Alegre, Jack Aranda, Jaymark DeGuzman, Christian Mizer, Nevin Salem, and Jimmy Tudela, and MHS' Ezra Caro, Erick Dela Rosa, and Ralph Francisco.

Playing for the newly crowned Settsu team were Kyosuke Hidari, Yusuki Hirata, Akiro Miyaura, Reo Moriyama, Ken Saguchi, Yuji Tanaka, and Masaya Ueda.

Meanwhile, other competitions on Saipan continued last week.

The Saipan Little League Baseball had its regular season games with McDonald's finally making it to the win column of the Majors division. In the Big, Senior, and Junior divisions, the Ol'Aces kept their winning runs.

Still in baseball, the Saipan Major League opened its 2012 season with the Angels drawing first blood against the Brewers.

In football, Matansa, Wild Bill's, and Tan Holdings, won their respective games in the men's league; Shirley's, Paire, and Independents prevailed in the women's league; Shirley's and Paire won in the girls U15; MP United Silver, Matansa, and Shirley's prevailed in the boys U15; and Tan Holdings and MP United triumphed in the boys U18.

In basketball, the DLX/Miller Lite caging completed its regular season games last week with eight teams advancing to the next round.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

MISO All-Stars' Marc Babauta slices through two Kagman High School defenders during their title game in Settsu-Saipan caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School's Lia Rangamar inbounds the ball during their title game against Settsu in the Settsu-Saipan caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Independents and Matansa players in action during the first half of their game in the NMIFA women's league last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Bruce Berline, left, goes up for a shot and draws a foul on Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon during their game in the DLX caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Triathletes who completed XTERRA Asia's Triple Crown pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Switzerland's Renata Bucher heads up to Navy Hill during last week's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bob Ferrer heads to Mt. Tapochao during last week's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Big comeback leads KU to win over Ohio St, 64-62
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Kobe rallies Lakers past Hornets
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# Lassonde stuns Allen in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

France's Cedric Lassonde figured in a bike crash on a pre-course ride, but four days later rode the same bike en route to victory in last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Lassonde pulled off an upset in the men's division of the weekend road race, beating Australia's Ben Allen. Lassonde, who finished third in XTERRA Guam, Philippines, and Saipan, competed in his last race of the month and finally won after completing the 2-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15k run in 2:52:26, just 20 seconds ahead of Allen (2:52:46).

Before his first win in the quartet of March races, the Frenchman sustained minor scratches on his arm and back after crashing into a motorist near Hopwood Junior High School last Tuesday. While Lassonde suffered only minor damage, the bike didn't, as its front and back wheels and handle bar broke.

"The bike broke and needed a major fix, but still it was the winning bike. Thank you to Kevin Carey," said Lassonde, who loaned the road bike from Carey as he only brought a mountain bike for XTERRA.

It was a come-from-behind win for Lassonde, who was more than four minutes behind Allen after the swim leg and chopped off only 34 seconds from the lead in the bike part before finally grabbing the upper hand near DFS Galleria in Garapan in the run leg on his way to the finish line at Micro Beach.

"I felt good heading into the run leg, while I saw Ben slowing down so I just kept pushing myself," said Lassonde, who submitted 47:09 (fastest) in the run leg from Micro Beach to Oleai Bar and Grill and back.

Allen timed in at 51:28 in the run leg, losing his more than four min-

See LASSONDE on Page 26

France's Cedric Lassonde bikes in the uphill road in San Roque near the Palms Resort during last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

# Slack gets one victory over Bucher

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack celebrates her first place finish in last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No more bridesmaid finish for United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack.

After placing runner-up to Renata Bucher in the first three races in March, Slack managed to squeeze out a victory over her Swiss rival, following a win in last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

"Finally, the victory is mine," said Slack, who completed the 2-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15K run in 3:18:25. "It was a perfect ending for a whole month of tough racing, as competing in a road race is my comfort zone." Before joining the XTERRA Tour, the 28-year-old Slack had joined World and European road races.

As expected, Slack was the first woman out of the water during the swim leg at the Pacific Islands Club. She timed in at 28:13, the second fastest time behind Australia's Ben Allen (25:16) and two minutes ahead of Saipan's Mieko Carey 30:16. Bucher was third in the women's with her 30:52, while Carina Wasle fin-

See SLACK on Page 26

# Rogolifoi homers twice, Lizama belts grand slam

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A pair of homers from IT&E Fielders' Ian Rogolifoi and a go-ahead grand slam from the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama highlighted last week's Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. action at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rogolifoi's homer lifted his Fielders past Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I in the Senior League game, 8-6, while in the Big League, Lizama's blast helped the Ol'Aces overcome the Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers, 8-6, despite a pair of homers by Hustlers' Brian Camacho and Kevin Villagomez.

In other Big League results, the IT&E Fielders handled the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters, 8-4, on Thursday, while in the Senior League, the Docomo Ol'Aces defeated the Rep.Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera Hunters, 16-9.

## SENIOR LEAGUE
## Fielders 8, Jets I 6

The Jets I managed a 2-1 lead off errors in the opening frame, but the Fielder's Khobby Kaipat tied it with an RBI single in the top of the third inning.

The Jets I chomped at the bit and reclaimed the lead, 6-5, with three hits, two walks, and an error in the bottom of the fourth; Matt Maeda bagged an RBI single and AJ Cabrera had an RBI double.

The Fielders tapped Jared Lizama in relief for Keoni Kaipat to close the fourth and the former cooled the Jets for the remainder of the contest despite a rocky start with inherited runners on the path.

The Fielder left the bases loaded in the fifth, but took the lead, 7-6, in the sixth inning off a Rogolifoi two-run homer that almost hit the foul pole in

See ROGOLIFOI on Page 26

Lizama

Rogolifoi